



Thursday 21 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Remote Learning

As we approach the end of week three of home learning, we would like to thank parents, carers and families for their support of our students working at home during what is an extremely challenging and unprecedented time for us all. Our blended learning approach is based on Department for Education, Education Endowment Foundation and Ofsted research and guidance, which recommends that schools provide a variety of activities equivalent to five hours' worth of work a day for secondary students. Links to some of the guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/best-evidence-on-supporting-students-to-learn-remotely/#nav-best-evidence-on-supporting-students-to-learn-remotely>

We would like to remind parents and carers that teachers and form tutors are available during **all** lessons and form periods for direct contact with students, which may take the form of live teacher led sessions, MS Teams chat or one to one school email communication. Students should check their MS Teams calendar at the start of each day, to ensure they know when their live lessons are, as well as keeping up to date with their Firefly task page and school email. Whilst we cannot have most of our students in school at the moment, it is important that they utilise these communication channels so that we can continue to monitor their progress and support them. Pastoral teams and teachers are regularly tracking engagement and analysis to date evidences that students are making good progress in their learning.

Feedback from our students so far has highlighted some technical difficulties which have been easily sorted. Aspects of our approach which students tell us they have enjoyed are the mixed approach to lessons where they might for example watch something together as a class, have time to work independently but also time to discuss and ask questions. They enjoy working on online platforms, with interactive quizzes which give them instant feedback. They also like the chat feature in MS Teams and the ability to ask questions privately via teacher email.

Thank you to those parents who have shared feedback on their and their child's experience of home learning so far. We welcome positive or constructive feedback at any time to continue to ensure that our remote learning offer meets the needs of all students. Our full suite of home learning information can be found here: <http://www.maghullhigh.com/RemoteServices/index.html>. Parents will be updated on student progress at our scheduled parent evenings, which will go ahead virtually whilst Covid-19 restrictions remain in place.

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At this moment in time, none of us know how long the current national lockdown will last, so it is vital that we continue to work together to secure the best progress we can for our students, at the same time as prioritising their wellbeing. By setting routines, which include taking regular breaks, students will find it easier to stay focused, engaged and make progress. In families where devices are shared between several individuals, students can catch up on their learning outside of the scheduled lesson times. If you require any further support with home learning, do not hesitate to contact us.

Practice Papers at Home

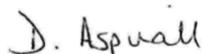
We were delighted to see so many of our year eleven and thirteen students attending our virtual assemblies about completing practice papers at home. The completion of these papers will allow students to demonstrate their learning and how well they are doing currently. The government and Ofqual consultation ends on 29 January and when the guidance comes through, we will of course inform parents and students of the arrangements. A copy of the practice papers schedule has been emailed directly to students and can be found on our website. Please email practicepapers@maghullhigh.com if you have any queries or questions.

Free School Meals for Students

Parents and carers are advised that with effect from the beginning of February, we will be reverting to the national Edenred vouchers in place of Tesco vouchers. Participating food outlets can be found here <https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/>

Should you have any other questions or concerns, please contact us on school@maghullhigh.com. In the meantime, stay safe and thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms Davina Aspinall
Headteacher

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