

Haileybury Turnford

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5th January 2021

Dear Families

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, I am writing to provide some information about our next steps. The government has announced that schools will be closed until February half-term.

Remote learning provision

We already have our plan in place for this week. Remote learning has been set on Class Charts for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students; and live lessons via Microsoft Teams are taking place for Year 11, 12 and 13 students. We are aware that there have been some technical issues with both Class Charts and Microsoft Teams this morning – these are technical issues with those platforms rather than school-related issues due to the volume of traffic using these platforms. We are confident Class Charts and Microsoft Teams will quickly resolve these issues.

There will be events for families to join on Microsoft Teams on Thursday evening to provide more details about our next steps for next week. An invite to events will follow in advance of Thursday. We recognise that there are many challenges with remote learning for families, but we will provide all possible support with remote learning, including wider pastoral and mental health support for students.

Public exams

There remains much uncertainty about what will take place this summer. Once we are in a position to share any clear news, we will provide such updates. Whilst the government have signalled that it will not be possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal, there has not yet been clarity about what is meant by alternative arrangements. Public vocational exams and assessments currently scheduled to take place this month for students will go ahead as planned. We will provide further updates as soon as we are able to. The Education Secretary is scheduled to make an announcement in Parliament tomorrow.

In-school provision for vulnerable students and critical worker provision

Our in-school provision has started today, and will continue throughout lockdown and the period of school closure. Please contact Mrs Davey at daveyr@haileyburyturnford.com with any queries, or to request a place in this provision. We hope to be able to offer regular COVID-19 testing to those students attending our in-school provision, as well as to staff working in school.

Free School Meals vouchers

Supermarket vouchers will be provided for all families in receipt of Free School Meals. Mr Megaw will be coordinating this provision, and we will process vouchers as soon as we are able to for the closure period. We will continue to also provide Free School Meals for students who attend our in-school provision throughout this period of school closure.

National lockdown: Stay at Home

Following last night's lockdown announcement for England, we must all follow the guidance fully. More details can be read here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home?utm_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#going-to-school-college-and-university

Our thoughts are with all those currently suffering from COVID-19, and also to those families who have been either directly or indirectly affected during the pandemic. We must remain optimistic, and hope that the roll-out of the vaccination programme will make a difference to reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and reducing hospital admissions in the coming weeks.

We remain here to help and provide all support that we can.

With best wishes



Robin Newman
Principal



Haileybury Turnford, Mill Lane, Cheshunt, EN8 0JU 01992 308333 enquiries@haileyburyturnford.com
Principal: Robin Newman MSc MBA

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