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January Updates

Dear Parents/Carers

As we work our way through the fourth week of the current lockdown, I suspect that many families are starting to feel the strain, for all sorts of reasons. As I often say to the students, the only valid expectation in these circumstances is for everyone to try their best and I know you are all doing that. Even though children are not always the best at showing appreciation to their parents, I know that they are very thankful for what you are doing for them. I am certainly very grateful for your continuing support and engagement, especially as there is still much uncertainty about the return to face-to-face education.

Online Support for Parents

I have been made aware of an organisation called Guide Education who are offering free video guides and other support to parents in relation to home learning. Although perhaps more directed at parents who have primary age children, it still has some things that might be of interest:

www.guideeducation.co.uk/parentsupporttopics

Survey

Thank you to the almost 400 parents who completed the recent survey in relation to our response to home learning. That is a much higher turnout than I was expecting and gave us some very useful information. I will place a copy of the results on our website in the Learning/Home Learning section for you to have a look at. It is broadly very positive but we are constantly looking at ways of improving our provision, especially as all of our original planning was based on students being out of school for just a couple of weeks at a time.

One thing that was flagged up was the lack of exercise some youngsters are getting. My PE colleagues have been considering how to motivate everyone to get away from their devices and we hope to see an improvement with this.

No Device Friday

On that note, we are going to interrupt the normal pattern of the timetable on **Friday 5th February** to try to give students a day away from their computers and other devices. We will be setting a number of different activities for students to pick from, with hopefully enough variety to engage everyone. I would appreciate it if you could pass this news on to your child(ren)...more information will follow.

Continued...

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Key Worker/Vulnerable Student Request Form

The form to request an in-school place for the final two weeks of this half-term can be found here:

bit.ly/2KTmLY2

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Despite the current lockdown, students who have previously signed up can still work towards this award. We are aware of amazing efforts by some to complete and log their activities.

There are some great ideas for suitable lockdown tasks, promoted by the scheme, that might be of interest to **all** students:

www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities

Access to Devices and Data

We do still have some laptops, data dongles and SIM cards available if your child is having problems accessing their learning at home. Please contact Fiona Stanley, Associate Assistant Headteacher, if you would like to explore the possibility of a loan: fstanley@warnefordschool.org

Year 11 Intended Destinations

All Year 11 students have received multiple reminders to let us know about their intended destinations for September 2021. If any of them still aren't sure, or need help in making applications, then please get in touch with one of the careers team: Lyn Dine (ldine@warnefordschool.org) or Andrew Pearson (apearson@warnefordschool.org)

Year 9 Parents' Evening – Video Conference

Over three-quarters of Year 9 parents have now booked their appointments for this important evening on Thursday 4th February. There are still slots available and I would strongly recommend that you attend if you can.

Please contact Mark Nye, Deputy Headteacher, if you are having any problems with the online booking system: mnye@warnefordschool.org

As always, I wish you and your family all the very best.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Steele
Headteacher
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