

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School
providing a Values Based Education*

Update Letter – 5th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope that you are all well today in spite of the news last night and the start of Lockdown #3. We are here to support you all as part of our Holywell community through the next few difficult weeks and months. Please keep in touch and, if there is anything we can do, please let us know. We started our online teaching today and, apart from a few early issues with the Satchel One/Show My Homework site crashing (due to the high volume of national traffic and use!), we have had some lovely feedback - especially about the live Zoom catch-ups. We will use a mix of different approaches over the coming weeks and we will try our very best to minimise the impact of this lockdown on learning. In addition, we will have some tutor group catch-ups to help students keep in touch with each other and with us in school.

If you have any IT issues, Mr Crapnell has revived the email helpline: helpit@holywellschool.co.uk. This was the address that we used in the summer term under the first lockdown, for parents and students to get help with issues like logging on or any other technical issues. Mr Crapnell can reset students' main school passwords (and hence their SMHW password) from this. If Mr Crapnell can't solve any problems he will forward them on to someone who might be able to help. There is also the following webpage with school logins for doodle maths, kerboodle, ttrackstars, mymaths etc - <http://www.holywellit.com/passwords.html>.

We also started our Critical Worker support in school and we have adapted the provision in school since the Spring/Summer lockdown by providing more of subject specialist approach. Please note that where staff are teaching students in school, they may not be able to provide as much 'direct' online learning to their other classes at that time - we will rotate staff so that everyone will have some direct teacher time.

Over the course of the next few weeks, we will also have some family challenges, assemblies and thoughts for the day based on our value of the month. Our January value is 'Respect for all' ... and a key aspect for students working at home is to respect family space and family working times. Everyone will need to help and support each other and be mindful of each other's commitments and needs. It may be helpful to draw up a timetable of who gets to use the laptop and when, it may simply be a case of finding a quiet space to work away from everyone else ... or even just respecting the fact that adults have work to do too!

I'm sure that we will all get through these next few challenging months together ... and remember, we are here to help and support – you can always talk with someone about anything, even if it is small or awful. I'll continue to send out regular update letters when we have things to share – please share the letters with the students too as they are as much about keeping them informed about what's happening as they are a way to communicate with you as parents/carers. It would be great if you could share photos or stories of your lockdown experiences too.

Best wishes

Mr MG Simpson



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Stewart

Assistant Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan – Designated Safeguarding Lead / SENDCo: Mrs J Davies

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