

Thorpe Life Excellence for all



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#weAREStillYourSchool

Issue 14 8 January 2021

Welcome back to our Remote Learning School this term. We aim to support all our students and continue to deliver the very best education remotely that we can. Please read all the information in this newsletter to help you be successful while learning at home.

#weAREStillYourSchool

COVID Testing

The school is developing its testing programme that will start next week. In order for your child to take part in the testing programme now and in the future, please return the Google Consent for (please see link below) to ensure we can successfully set up the programme.

<https://forms.gle/Aj6Uph5tVpv3c9Qd9>

In-School Provision

This time around, the in-school provision is a little different. Each Year group has its own provision, staffed by a consistent team which is led by the Head of Year. Students will need to wear their school uniform and will complete the remote learning that is being set by their teachers (students will need to bring in some headphones/earphones). As an extra precaution, face coverings are being worn by everyone in school all the time as well. All places require booking a week in advance. If you are a Critical Worker and need to access the in-school provision, please contact the school via provision21-tsa@yare-edu.org.uk. There will be no provision for catering on site. Please ensure your child brings a packed lunch in to school with them.

All Free School Meal students will receive fortnightly vouchers and have been contacted. If you do not receive Free School Meals and think you are eligible please follow the link below to find out more information and how to apply.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

TRANSPORT

School transport will be running for students who have been booked into our in-school provision. It is important to remind you that, following the implementation of the new National lockdown, car sharing is not permitted with someone from outside your household or support bubble.

Further guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#private-cars-and-other-vehicles>

Mr Lambert

Thought of the Week - Structure is important. Setting your own schedule can be hard when it runs only on self-motivation but it definitely pays off.

BLENDED LEARNING

In light of the recent announcement and guidance from Gavin Williamson regarding remote learning, and the fact that we are in a National lockdown, we have adapted our remote learning procedure so that our student's learning experience is as similar to the school environment as possible.

You may have noticed a shift in our language from remote learning to blended learning. Blended learning is not a new thing and is something that has always happened. It simply refers to different activities and inputs, so the approach is "blended".

This is particularly relevant in our current learning environment where there will be live input from the teacher in a Google meet, learning tasks set, pre recorded videos or resources and retrieval quizzes for each lesson and students follow their normal timetable. All students and parents were sent information on how this works on Thursday 7 January 2021. Please follow the link below to ensure everyone knows what to do.

<https://thorpestandrewschool.org.uk/parents/letters/>

From Monday 11 January 2021, students will be getting a varied diet of "Blended learning" and in every lesson will have the opportunity that they should have to see their teacher, talk to their teacher and to listen to the teacher explain what the lesson is about and give them the feedback and guidance that they need.

Mrs Wilkinson

ACCESSING GOOGLE CLASSROOM ON YOUR XBOX OR PS4 OR 5

I will admit, I am not a "gamer" and therefore not able to say that I have tried this or understand how it works! However, if you follow this link you will find instructions on how to use your games console to access Google classroom and therefore the learning resources needed for your learning. The only other thing you will need is a pen and paper!

<https://www.t3.com/news/access-google-classroom-on-your-playstation-or-xbox-heres-how>

Do not forget that a smart phone can also be used to access the Google Meet part of the lesson.

We do not want access to technology to be a barrier to learning for any student. We have **not** recalled Chromebooks loaned by the school from the first lockdown to help with access. We have also loaned more devices since Monday 4 January 2021 to families.

If access to technology is a barrier please contact us at itsupport-tsa@yare-edu.org.uk. We will do our best to help.

Miss Allen

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Examinations

GCSE, AS and A level examinations will not go ahead this summer.

The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (**Ofqual**) and Department for Education are currently discussing alternative arrangements for the awarding of grades. A detailed consultation will start next week on what form teacher assessments will take. We will keep you updated on any developments.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-message-from-simon-lebus-chief-regulator-on-exams-in-2021>

Vocational Examinations Year 11, 12 and 13

Each year group has been contacted in detail regarding arrangements for vocational assessments and examinations due to take place in January and February.

We have been assured by the examination boards that students who could not sit the examinations will not be disadvantaged and we are supporting our students during this time.

We understand this is a worrying time for students, parents and carers and as a school we will work with examination boards to ensure the best outcome for the students.

It is unclear as yet from the Government if any vocational examinations will go ahead this summer. Please keep working towards these examinations as usual.

The role of students due to sit examinations this year is to continue to *Aspire* to be the best, *Respect* those at home and *Engage* in the remote blended learning.

Mr Hookway

Attendance During Lockdown

Teachers will be taking a register during each lesson that we deliver, based on student attendance in the video meeting that will be a part of every lesson. If a student does not attend a video meeting, we will register that as an "absence" and it will be followed up by the Pastoral Team in each Year School.

So that we can have accurate registers, please contact the school's Absence Line (01603 497722) daily, if needed to report any illness or medical appointment that might prevent your child from working at home.

Please also contact the School at itsupport-tsa@yare-edu.org.uk if your child experiences difficulties in accessing the online work, so that we can work together to resolve those problems.



Pastoral Team Contact

During this week the pastoral team began making contact with each and every student in the school via telephone. If you haven't had your call yet, it will be coming in the next few days. The contact will be made via the contact number of the parent who is priority contact one on our records.

In a school of almost 2000 students this is no small task, but we feel that personal contact and link to school is very important. The purpose of the call is two fold. Firstly, they will be doing a well-being check-in and they will be asking them how they are getting on at home and suggesting tips for how to keep mentally well. They will encourage your child to talk about how they feel about this lockdown and if they have any concerns or require any further support. They may signpost to support or offer further support in school if required. Secondly, they will be checking how your child is getting along with their work and ensuring that they have the support needed to be able to access the work and the live lessons. They will also be happy to talk to parents, so if you have any questions or concerns, they will endeavour to resolve these or refer on to someone who can.



The team recognise that all of our students are different and have different requirements and needs. They will discuss with your child how regularly they wish to be contacted. For some students this may be weekly, some more and some less. We hope that this bespoke support for each and every student will make our students continue to feel connected to us and our community.

Mr Dewar

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

If you, a family member or student are awaiting COVID-19 test results or tests positive **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL**, continue to isolate for **10 days** from the day after the test and ring/email the school to inform us.

- A high temperature - this means you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back (or have a temperature of 37.8 degrees or above)
- A new continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal.

Most people with Coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

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At Thorpe We ARE

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Many of you may remember our #StillYourSchool campaign through the first National lockdown last year. This time around #WeAREStillYourSchool through lockdown. We will be more connected this time through our remote learning plans and we can't wait to see what you can achieve. Our challenge to you this time is threefold:

- We want to see our students **Aspire** to be the best that they can be.
- We want to see our students **Respect** each other online.
- We want to see our students **Engage** with remote learning.



So, keep in touch via our school [website](#), your Google Classrooms, your emails and on twitter (@tsas_norwich) and let's show everyone who we ARE, how amazing we ARE and how proud we ARE to be Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form

#WeAREStillYourSchool

Mr Lambert

Sixth Form Applications

Students who have applied to our Sixth Form will receive a letter next week with their interview details to discuss your choice of options. Interviews will take place week beginning Monday 18 January 2021 and Monday 25 January 2021 via the Zoom platform.

We look forward to meeting you then.

The Sixth Form Team.



Thank you for all your kind donations for the food bank prior to Christmas. We had an overwhelmingly generous response.

 Last summer, local BBC radio stations helped members of the public donate thousands of old laptops and tablets for schoolchildren to use across England. For those students who were sharing phones at home while learning in lockdown, it made a huge difference.

With schools now closed again we are once more asking you to help those students still in need.

Please follow the link below to find out how to donate your old laptops.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5SqHJMTKZx5sYhlltXJvB1Q/give-a-laptop>

Online Safety Please follow the link below to see the Parent guide to online safety from the children's commissioner.

<https://thorpestandrewschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/1/2021/01/cco-parents-digital-safety-wellbeing-kit.pdf>

Academic Support The Raising Achievement Team will continue to support our students with their learning during this period of National lockdown. Through regular check-in calls, delivery of targeted interventions, 1:1/small groups tuition for English and Mathematics and mentoring sessions, we are committed to providing scaffolded support to the students to enhance the quality of their experience and engagement with remote blended learning. The implementation of the Raising Achievement Team has been an asset with regards to academic support this year and we have expanded our group of dedicated professionals in order to reach more students and help them face these difficult times with confidence, reassurance and positivity.

Mr Salgado

Important Contact Information

For subject specific questions and queries, students should contact their teachers via Google Classroom.

For IT issues, including RM Unify/Google classroom or use of devices please email itsupport-tsa@yare-edu.org.uk.

For student absence please contact the school in the normal way, via the absence line - 01603 497722.

For COVID-19 issues (including advising of positive tests), please email trackandtrace-tsa@yare-edu.org.uk.

To book into the in-school provision, please email provision21-tsa@yare-edu.org.uk.

For any other queries please email office@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk.