

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you all had a good break over the Christmas period and that you and your families are safe and well. We welcomed year 7 back to school 'virtually' last week and have been incredibly impressed by how well they have adapted to online learning and live lessons. What a massive learning curve! Overall, most classes have demonstrated excellent Values, Attitudes and Attributes throughout their learning during live lessons. We have had reports of students being willing to take risks as they engage fully in their lessons. We have seen that most students are answering questions, contributing their opinions, helping others and being empathetic (towards both their peers and their teachers.) Well done year 7. We are very proud of them.

A minority of students in the first few lessons struggled to settle and show the level of respect we expect. When these instances occurred, students have addressed our concerns, and behaviour is currently very good. Please remind students that lessons are recorded so we can share lessons with absent students (these recordings also help us identify any examples of inappropriate behaviour); teachers will give one warning about inappropriate chat, shouting out or disruptive acts and then will remove those repeating poor behaviour from the live lesson. This will then be followed up by either the Attendance Monitor, the teacher themselves or a senior member of staff if required. We will contact parents should behaviour be repeatedly distracting.

Hopefully, this will not be necessary as all students are capable of making the right choices – we have seen this across all classes over the lessons this week. We have been super impressed.

It appears that online learning will be ongoing until at least February half-term (although dates have not been confirmed). We continually review and evaluate our practice, so would urge you to complete a feedback form which will be sent out over the next week. Please look out for this, as your views are important in our reflections of what works well and what we could improve.

Finally, we would like to thank you for all you are doing to support your child and their teachers – whether your child is working from home or is in school. We really appreciate that this is not always an easy task. You are doing a great job! We can see this through the engagement of students. If you have not already contacted us about any specific issues relating to devices or connectivity, please do let your child's form tutor know. Thank you to those of you who have been in contact. We are doing all we can to try to resolve/help.

Here are a few ideas to help with online learning:

- If you have limited devices in the house: MS Teams can run on phones (students can complete work on paper and send a photograph of work through assignments. Students can also use the 'Notes' app to scan documents. These are easily sent to

Secondary: 01604 669200 **Primary:** 01604 669210 **Website:** www.ccs.northants.sch.uk

Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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The Wooldale Centre for Learning, Wootton Fields, Northampton NN4 6TP

Teams.) Xbox and PlayStation consoles can also be used to access Teams **if** there are no other devices available. Should your child be experiencing serious issues in accessing a device, please notify: acambio@ccs.northants.sch.uk and we will see if we are able to assist.

- A space where students can work is helpful. If you do not have a desk for a student to work on, please try to find somewhere quiet for them to join the lesson and continue with the work set.
- Praise your child for demonstrating high performance learning ACPs and VAAs. You can let your child's form tutor know if you have been impressed by your child's approach to online learning. Likewise, let your child's form tutor know if your child is repeatedly struggling.
- Be realistic. If your child cannot complete all the work in the time allocated by the teacher, that is totally fine. We know that students often do not work as quickly if they are typing. We sometimes set more than a child can finish as teachers cannot assess progress as they would in a classroom. If your child has used the time efficiently, and has not finished, please ask your child to let the class teacher know.
- Encourage your child to still have breaks in between lessons. This is important to get your child out of their seat. Year 7 have breaks at: 09:45 – 10:00. 11:00 – 11:15. 12:15 – 12:45. 1:45 – 2:00.
- Allow students to use their PSHE, drama and PE lesson slot to attempt one of the **optional** tasks for drama or PE or do something of their own interest – although it might be best to avoid activities which can be all consuming/difficult to stop, e.g., computer games. The idea is to allow them a break if they need it or time to pursue something they would like.
- Encourage self-help strategies so students improve their ability to become independent learners. If a student gets something wrong, this will alert the teacher and they can help. However, if your child still does not understand something, they should ask in the Team post for that class.
- Please let us know if things are going well and when things are not. We are all learning.

We are constantly reflecting. You will find that we change things as we go along as we attempt to provide the highest quality education for your child. Thank you for your patience, input, and support.

Kind regards,



Elizabeth Husband
(Assistant Principal)



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(Progress Leader)

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