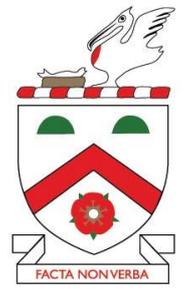


FRED LONGWORTH HIGH SCHOOL



Belonging, Engaging, Succeeding Together

15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are well. This letter is to provide you with an update on the current situation and further information to support your child working at home.

Remote Learning Updates

On Monday 18th January your child's form tutor or a member of the year team will schedule a remote form time session between 8:45 to 9:00am, your child must attend this. From the feedback we received about last week's remote form session, we found that this was a positive experience for the students because it provided a personalised forum to help organise them for the week ahead. Monday form-time will now become routine. Most importantly, it will help your child to maintain that ever-important connection with their form tutor and form group. Unfortunately, last Monday we did experience some technical issues, which may have affected some students' ability to access the session. I can only apologise for this, please bear with us, we are ever at the mercy of the technology. We are also now putting in place year group assemblies when we feel it is appropriate to do so. The first remote assembly will take place on Wednesday 20th January; this will be set up through Teams and will start at 8:45am.

Behaviour Online

I would like to take this opportunity to outline a few basic protocols that all students must adhere to when learning online. This is to ensure that the online environment is a safe and productive space for all.

- Students should attend online lessons promptly.
- Students are expected to engage fully with the lessons and interact appropriately.
- Students must not behave poorly online and disrupt the learning of others. This includes shouting out inappropriate comments and misuse of the chat function within Teams. Students who persistently misbehave will be removed from lessons, parents will be contacted and appropriate sanctions will be put in place. We have updated the school's behaviour policy to reflect our online expectations, the updated policy can be found [here](#).
- Students are expected to attend all lessons, attendance is being monitored and non-attendance will be followed up by Heads of Year.
- Staff will provide clear guidance on how completed work is to be submitted. It is expected that students complete all their work to the best of their ability.

We would ask for your full support in ensuring that your child engages appropriately with online learning and that you monitor, when you can, their engagement; we acknowledge that this may not always be possible, due to your own work commitments.

Can I also politely remind parents that live lessons are for student learning only. Unfortunately, we have had occasions this week when parents themselves have joined live lessons to speak to a member of staff, directly or through the chat function on Teams. If you need to contact a member of staff, please use other means of communication such as email. A live lesson with an audience of potentially 30 students is not an appropriate or private forum. Thank-you.

IT Issues

If your child is experiencing any technical issues or problems using any software such as Teams you can access support at ictsupport@flhs.wigan.sch.uk. Technical help and support videos can be found [here](#). If your child is having difficulty accessing remote provision because they do not have access to a laptop or other suitable device, please contact Mr Whalley on WhalleyJ@flhs.wigan.sch.uk. So far, we have been able to provide over 100 machines to students without access but we are aware that there may be other families in need of support. Through our social media accounts, we have asked for donations from anybody who is able to provide any spare or unused lap-tops. If you, or anybody you know is in a position to donate equipment, please contact techdonations@flhs.wigan.sch.uk. All donations will be gratefully received and put to good use.

Blended Learning

This week OFSTED produced useful information about what constitutes effective remote provision, drawing together examples of best practice. Live lessons are an important component of this but not exclusively. Effective remote provision can also incorporate pre-recorded delivery of content, which in turn provides the opportunity for students to revisit the input at a later stage. Another essential component of remote provision is to ensure that students are provided with the opportunity to work independently. Our staff will be using a mixture of approaches and when delivering live, they will not necessarily deliver for a full hour. Experience has shown that this can be too much for a child, particularly when you consider that they are potentially working at a machine for five continuous hours per day. Our staff have been trained to 'create space' for students to allow them to complete work independently. It is also vitally important that the students take a break and their lunch.

Provision of Basic Equipment

During the course of this week, we have become aware that some students may require new exercise books and additional materials such as basic stationery to complete their work at home. From Monday 18th January there will be a stock of basic equipment available in the school reception. If your child requires any of this, you will be able to come into school at any time between 9am and 3pm to collect what you need. A member of staff will be on hand to assist. Please note that if you do come on site, you must wear a mask and observe social distancing. We have also provided a large selection of reading books in the reception area, you are welcome to collect one of these for your child. On the subject of reading, we do have recommended reading lists for students in both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. These can be found [here](#).

Year 11 Updates

Very little has changed since I wrote to you last week about the cancellation of Year 11 examinations and about the decisions that are needed from OFQUAL to govern how grades will be awarded. We understand that the lack of precise information is frustrating and is causing a great deal of anxiety; however, these factors are out of our control. OFQUAL's consultation process is now underway. As soon as we have further details, we will inform you. We do know that teachers will be responsible for awarding the final grades and that these will be based on a range of evidence.

What should Fred Longworth High School Year 11 students do in the meantime?

- Year 11 students should carry on engaging in full with remote learning.
- From what we know so far, Year 11 students are likely to be completing assessments in some/all subjects, in school, when schools fully reopen. It is highly likely that Year 11 students will be the priority group for returning to school when restrictions start to ease.
- Year 11 reports will be sent home from Monday 25th January detailing current working at grades, which in most subjects will have been informed by the recent mock examinations. Students need not become despondent if they are disappointed with their mock results. As I have mentioned in previous communications, the mock result, and other recent assessments are likely to be only part of the evidence base used to inform final grades.
- We have been led to believe that the work and engagement of students during this remote learning period is also likely to contribute to the grading process.

Year 11 College Applications and Post-16 Progression

Most students in Year 11 will now have met with Mrs Russell, the school's careers advisor to discuss Post 16 options but if any student does need further careers guidance, they can contact Mrs Russell on RussellR@flhs.wigan.sch.uk. Students who have not yet submitted their college application forms need to do so as soon as possible. If students are experiencing any difficulties with the application process, please contact Mr Nuttall, Head of Careers on NuttallC@flhs.wigan.sch.uk.

Students in school

Students who are attending school are reminded to bring the necessary equipment/resources with them as would be expected on a normal school day. It is also important to stress that students who are displaying any symptoms of covid must not attend school and parents must inform us immediately using the email address covid@flhs.wigan.sch.uk. Students in school are accessing remote lessons, supervised by support staff in year group bubbles. In the interests of safety for all our community and families, if we do have a positive case, bubbles may have to be closed.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support during these difficult times. We are seeing high levels of online engagement from the students and we will endeavour to keep evolving our remote offer. If you do have any queries you can contact either your child's Head of Year or use the email address enquiries@flhs.wigan.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Davies', written in a cursive style.

Mr P Davies
Headteacher