

12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of this half term I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding. There can be no doubt that we have worked collaboratively to get through this pandemic and I feel we should all be proud of what we have achieved. We have all adapted to this 'new normal' and responded to the challenges it has presented. It does now feel that there may be some light appearing at the end of the Covid tunnel, and I look forward to welcoming all students back to school once we have the 'green light' from the government.

We have been really pleased with how your children have adapted to online learning. Whilst I know there have been some issues along the way, most students are now familiar with Google Meet and lessons online. This way of learning will continue until further notice. Please do let us know if you have any issues at all with accessing the lessons and activities set by teachers. We have supported lots of families with laptops and data allowances and we will continue to do this. It is our priority that every child has access to learning. You will be receiving a new online consent form from us which we need you to complete - this will enable us to further improve our lessons. Please look out for the form and complete it as soon as possible.

To promote health and well-being for all we have started to encourage 'off screen' activities - it has been delightful to hear about the different things that your children have been doing: making models for English plays, practical cooking as part of learning French, photographic tasks as part of daily exercise and many more. Please remember we have also put some lockdown exercise suggestions on our website - suitable for the whole family! (<https://grahamschool.org/fitness-fun/>). We are also very excited about our forthcoming competition 'Graham's Got Talent' which will be a great chance for our students to showcase their performing skills!

If your child is in Year 11, I know that you will be concerned about their GCSEs. At the minute we are still waiting for guidance from the Department for Education. The most important thing is that Year 11 students keep joining all lessons and maintain contact with their teachers. As soon as we have any new information, we will share it with you. After half term, we will continue to offer weekly drop in sessions for Year 11 parents - please join one if you have any specific questions.

For students in Year 8 we will be starting our Options process after half term. We have been working on a range of videos to support you in learning more about the subjects on offer. You will receive a letter and Options Booklet in the post after the break. Please take the time to discuss options at home and look out for more information in the coming weeks. Whilst it is unusual for us all to organise this remotely, we are confident that we can

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share everything with you effectively to support your children to make the right decisions. We will, of course, keep in contact and there will be plenty of opportunity to talk to us directly as well.

You will, I am sure, have heard mention of the 8 March as a possible date for the reopening of schools. At the moment this is simply a suggestion of a date. As soon as we know anything definite, we will contact you about how students will return to school. In the meantime the focus will remain on remote learning and supporting students to engage fully.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good half term break. Please take care of one another and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Emma Robins  
Principal