

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Our ref: JS/LW

Dear Parents

In light of the Prime Minister's announcements with regard to the new lockdown and the decision to move to remote learning until February half term, I wanted to reassure you about the provision for learning at Bishop Stopford School and some specific information for particular groups.

Your child/ren will be receiving work via Firefly and some lessons on Teams: our priority is that they continue to make good progress in their learning in each subject. Pages on Firefly will be updated weekly. Your child/ren's form tutor will maintain the pastoral overview, and Heads of Year are available for any matters you might wish to raise.

We will be sending out our parent survey again for you to update us on any issues which may affect your child/ren's engagement with learning at this point. We will also be reviewing the provision with students to ensure we make the learning as effective as possible.

We will continue to keep in touch when we have more information for you, but some immediate matters are dealt with below:

**(a) Keyworker<sup>1</sup>/Vulnerable Student Provision**

If you require this provision, please notify Mr King ([RobKing@bishopstopford.com](mailto:RobKing@bishopstopford.com)). *This is a change from the email address which was used for the holiday period only.* Please indicate where possible the days you will require the provision on a week by week basis, and at least one working day before the place is required to enable us to staff adequately.

**(b) Free School Meals**

Students are still entitled to free school meals while they are learning at home. If this is relevant to you, you will be contacted separately.

**(c) School Transport**

Buses are cancelled to February half term. You are therefore entitled to a reduction in the annual cost, and you will be contacted by our Finance Team in due course.

**(d) Year 8 Progress Review (Tuesday 19 January 2021)**

This event will take place online as planned. Parents of Year 8 students will be contacted in due course.

**(e) Year 9 Options Forms Returns (deadline 5 February 2021)**

We have received a small number of forms already, but we will now also collect choices electronically. More information will follow.

**(f) Monday 11 January Public Exams (iMedia, Health and Social Care)**

These exams are still scheduled to take place. Please refer to the communications sent yesterday for more detail.

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<sup>1</sup> [Government Definition of Key or Critical Worker](#)

**(g) Year 11 and Year 13 Mocks/Summer Exams**

- Mock exams will be rescheduled, and dates will be confirmed when the return to school is confirmed. (Reports will also be rescheduled.)
- There is currently no further information than what was announced by the Prime Minister yesterday evening, where he said “it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements.” While there is speculation about what exactly this might entail, we will only comment and inform you when we are certain about the facts as we move forward. We will ensure that we keep up to date with the national picture and will inform you as swiftly as is practical. (A short video has been sent to students in Year 11 and Year 13 concerning the exams.)

**(h) Sixth Form Application Forms (29 January 2021)**

These need to be completed by the deadline date, and can be either emailed to Mrs Marsh ([hmarsh@bishopstopford.com](mailto:hmarsh@bishopstopford.com)) or posted to her at school. Students are asked to enter their Target Grade, and not a ‘current working grade’ as printed on the form. If emailed, forms will be accepted with applicants’ and parents’ names typed rather than signed. ([BSS6 Application Form](#))

I trust that the information above is of help to you. Please continue to stay in touch over any matters which concern you, and we will continue to work to provide a high quality education in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely



J Silverthorne  
Headteacher