

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

5 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am hoping that this is the last Headteacher's Update that I will write when our students are not in school. We are really looking forward to welcoming our all students back on Tuesday 9 March. As a reminder the times of the school day are below:

| Year 7 | | |
|---------------------|---|--------|
| Arrive | Go straight to Form Room | 8.20am |
| Leave | Leave from the back of school | 2.30pm |
| Year 8 | | |
| Arrive | Go straight to Form Room | 8.30am |
| Leave | Leave from the back of school | 2.35pm |
| Year 9 | | |
| Arrive | Go straight to Form Room | 8.25am |
| Leave | Leave from the back of school | 2.40pm |
| Year 10 | | |
| Arrive | Go straight to period 1 | 8.45am |
| Leave | Leave from the back of school | 2.45pm |
| Year 11 | | |
| Arrive | Go straight to period 1 | 8.50am |
| Leave | Leave from the back of school | 2.50pm |
| Year 12 and Year 13 | | |
| Arrive | Use the yellow staircase and go straight to Form Room | 8.30am |
| Leave | Use the aqua staircase to leave | 2.45pm |

Students will be able to enter and leave the site from either the Spen Lane gate or the Weetwood Road gate.

We've been asked to send you a letter from the Director of Children's Services which gives further advice about keeping transmission rates down in Leeds. There is also a poster to support students' understanding of why they need to wear face masks on public transport. Please talk to your child about the need to do this in order to keep themselves and others safe.

When students return on Tuesday, I will be leading a whole school assembly to welcome them back and remind them of the control measures we have in place in school to keep them safe and to ensure we can keep our school open to all students. Please ensure that your child has a face mask and a spare as they are now required to wear them in all communal areas, including classrooms, unless they are medically exempt. Please contact your child's Head of Year or Year Manager if they are exempt from

wearing a face mask and we can ensure this is shared with staff so they are not constantly asked to put on their face mask.

Home Test Kits for Families

We have been asked to share the following information with you about undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing to help reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Communication about COVID-19 symptoms and positive test results

If your child, or someone they live with, develops any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they must self-isolate and book a COVID test. Please let the school know if this is the case and keep us updated about the results of the test. If someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 you should self-isolate according to government guidelines which can be read by clicking [here](#).

If your child needs to self-isolate because they have symptoms, the virus itself or because they are a close contact of someone who has the virus then they can access their learning via Showbie. Students will be very well-versed in how this happens now.

Progress Reporting

We would normally send home a progress report for all students that informs you about your child's effort levels, attendance, punctuality and progress over the next few weeks. However, we have decided to postpone the gathering of this data until next term as we feel it would be highly inaccurate and could lead to false assumptions being drawn about how much effort and progress a child has actually made.

We are very aware that during this period of remote learning some students have been working away at all the tasks set but have been very reluctant to join in with the live section of the lesson or have not submitted the work for marking. We are also aware that some students have been dealing with

challenging home circumstances such as a bereavement, and that it would be wrong to judge them when we haven't seen them in school.

By the Easter holiday every year group will have had a parents' evening so I hope you will feel that you have had ample opportunity to gauge how your child is currently working and that you will be happy to wait until the school community has had time to return to face to face lessons and be taught and assessed in a fair, supportive fashion before we gather and report data to you.

Year 11 and Year 13 Centre Assessed Grades

We are pleased that we have now received guidelines from the Government regarding how GCSE and A level outcomes should be assigned this year. We are however, still awaiting further clarification, resources and training from exam boards, and we are taking time to ensure that our approach is robust, fair and supportive to all students.

I know many of you will have questions and concerns, please be assured that we will publish an overview statement on 16 March and that this will be accompanied by a video that will be shared with students to explain our over-riding principles. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have been working hard and do not need to worry; as long as they attend school and keep up to date with the lessons, they will be in a very strong position to secure good outcomes and be ready for their next steps.

Focus On Your Future

We have had a very busy National Careers Week and students have shown real maturity in their explorations of different career opportunities across the curriculum. We have been sharing some of the students' work via Twitter, but we have lots more to come and hope to enter several national competitions with students' work.

Thank you to everyone who completed our careers education survey. The link is still live, if you would like to complete it: [Microsoft Forms](#). Thank you for all of your offers of help and support. Unfortunately, some of these offers did not have emails addresses included, so I would like to ask that you send your details via email to Sam Gill, our Career Development Coordinator samantha.gill@elawnswood.co.uk

Year 10 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 10 March, 4.00pm-7.00pm

If you haven't already, please book your Parents' Evening appointment as soon as possible. Given the challenges of the past year, it is even more important that we work in partnership with you to ensure your child has every chance of success. The parents' evening booking system can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

As you prepare your child to return to school this weekend, if there are any questions that you or they might need answering, please email them to questions@elawnswood.co.uk and we will either reply by email or contact you on Monday.

It will be wonderful to have our classrooms full of students again and to hear the hubbub of learning and fun once more in our school. Until next week, take care and I hope you and your families remain safe and well.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JBell', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Bell
Headteacher