



PRINCIPAL:
VICE PRINCIPAL:

MR S GODDEN
MR D PALMER

29th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. The last few weeks of lockdown have felt particularly challenging, and without the sunshine afforded to us during the first lockdown I think we are all suffering from something akin to the winter blues! The circumstances that each of us are dealing with are exceptionally variable and our home demands make this even more challenging. Please remember, it's ok not to feel ok...others are feeling exactly the same way. You are doing a tremendous job.

'Ditch the Device Day': Wednesday 3rd February

As a school we continue to try and balance the needs of families, the requirements set by the Department for Education and Government, and ensuring the curriculum continues. As I am sure you can imagine, this is a virtually impossible situation for all.

Trinity has always prioritised wellbeing, and I am becoming increasingly concerned about the amount of time pupils and staff are having to spend in front of screens and devices to work remotely. As a result, to support pupil wellbeing and to raise awareness of 'Children's Mental Health Week' (1st – 7th February 2021, more information at www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org), we have taken the decision to nominate this Wednesday 3rd February as 'Ditch the Device Day'.

As part of 'Ditch the Device Day', staff will not be setting remote lessons and pupils do not need to complete work online. Instead, we encourage pupils and staff to consider their mental health, and to participate in a selection of wellbeing and enrichment activities that do not involve any screen time. This will also apply to those pupils who need to attend school for any reason. More information about this can be found in the attached edition of The Triformer.

On this theme, I'd also like to remind all pupils and families that you can reach out for support by emailing speakeasy@trinity.bexley.sch.uk if you are experiencing difficulties or are worried about your own or someone else's mental health. The school are here to help you in any way we can.

Remote Education Update

Following the Prime Minister's announcement that remote education will continue and pupils will not return to school before 8th March at the earliest, I feel it is appropriate to update you with information surrounding remote education provision:

ClassCharts

Throughout this period we have indicated that ClassCharts is the 'first port of call' for pupils' work for their day.



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We are really conscious that for the best return to school, pupils need to be accessing and engaging with their learning. Staff are using positive points to help create that enthusiasm, and we also very much appreciate your support from home. Additionally, staff are using ClassCharts notifications to identify when pupils have not engaged with work or attended live lessons. These notifications do not add any negative points but provide the school with information about how pupils are accessing work. Currently parents are informed on a Wednesday when these notifications have been pressed by more than one teacher during the week.

Sending information on a Wednesday gives you, as parents and carers, the opportunity to feedback should there be an issue we are unaware of and/or have the appropriate conversations with your child during the week. Please ensure you inform the school where there are reasons for pupil's not completing work, including illness, so you do not receive notifications incorrectly. Please also be aware that the frequency with which notifications are sent if pupils are not engaging with their work will increase, as per Department for Education guidance.

Uploading / Submitting work

There do appear to be some instances where parents have queried why they have received notification that their child has not completed work. In most cases, work has been completed by pupils BUT has not been uploaded for review or marking as required. Pupils should check that work has been submitted according to the request set by staff. In most cases this will be via either Google Classroom or ClassCharts but may also be a subject specialist platform. Pupil guides can be found on the school website on the Remote Education page, or by clicking [here](#).

School Gateway

As we continue to improve and update our systems we are encouraging parents to start using the SchoolGateway app and website. This helps and supports the comments above as parents and carers are able to see changes within 24 hours and in some situations with immediate effect. The app also links with ClassCharts and you are able to see points awarded through this system. The app can be downloaded via the Apple and Google stores. There are already over 700 parents connected via this app. If you are still to connect, you will have / shortly will be receiving an email to help you join.

Live lessons / Partially live lessons / Recorded lessons

There are numbers of parents/carers who have said they – and their child – really value live lessons or lessons where there are segments which are live or have pre-recorded content. Although challenging to manage, we are continuing to work with staff and departments to try and increase this provision. Please remember here that some teachers will have 150 children during a school day and managing interaction remotely here is a huge issue both technically and from a time perspective.

Data Collections and Interim Reports

The school continues to collect progress data about pupils and this will be issued in relation to the school calendar. Currently staff are inputting data for Years 8 and 10 and once this has been processed, information will be issued. These reports can also be picked up via School Gateway.



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Our standard 'Attitude to Learning' grades have been re-defined for the current circumstances. These will be added to the footnotes of future Interim Reports

Virtual Parents' Evenings

As already noted, we are working as hard as possible to ensure an effective collaboration between home and school. As such we have already operated two virtual parents' consultation evenings and the dates for the next three are published in The Trinformer in the calendar section. Around a week before each evening, information will be sent to help you book your appointments. You must test these systems in advance to ensure you access your teachers and book appointments as required.

Lateral Flow Testing

I'd like to thank you for returning consent forms / responding to emails in relation to LFT. We are now in a position where we have had over 1000 returns. Whilst we do not know what the testing programme will look like in reality when we make a full return, this level of engagement ensures we will be in a strong position to respond accordingly.

Once again, thank you for all of your support. There is absolutely no doubt that things will be easier for all of us when pupils are able to safely return to school, and we sincerely hope this is sooner rather than later.

Yours sincerely

Mr Simon Godden
Principal