

Queen Elizabeth II High School

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12th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

A week ago today we were starting a new term and a new year little knowing what was just around the corner. I hope that you are all keeping safe and coping with the current situation. Thank you so much for heeding government advice and keeping your children home unless they absolutely have to come to school. It is much appreciated and means we can keep staff in school to a minimum and hopefully reduce the risk of any transmission of the virus. Those in school are wearing face coverings unless at their designated work space and each student has their own place in a specific room. That is why we asked you to complete a form requesting a place so that we could plan to keep people as safe as possible.

I hope that you are finding supervising your children's remote learning more straightforward this time. We have put in a lot of planning and training for the possibility of another lockdown and it is paying dividends now. We have uploaded all the recent guidance onto our <u>website</u>, including helpful videos if you need support in getting your child logged on, uploading work etc.(https://qe2.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/118/Online%20Learning\)

All students are expected to 'meet' with their tutor at 11am each school day. This is to help keep some form of face to face contact each day and help identify any problems. We have lent out a number of iPads with keyboards to support families where children were sharing devices. We still have some available so if you do need to borrow one, please let the form tutor know or contact us via enquiries.

For students in Years 11, 12 and 13 we are still awaiting further information about the summer exams and what might replace those that are cancelled. At the moment, the IGCSE and IA level exams run by Cambridge are still due to go ahead. I think this is in the best interests of students as the alternatives being considered by Ofqual for other boards have yet to be agreed and planned. Even with the current situation on the Island, we are still well-placed to run exams compared with other jurisdictions and students are well prepared for them so should not worry. Assuming that our lockdown ends after the planned 3 weeks, we will hold mock exams for Year 11 the following week. Do not worry about these. They are intended to help the children practise exam technique and identify any gaps in their learning that they can then work on before the real thing. They are only being run for the IGCSE subjects. There will be one Maths assessment which will help towards an evidence base for WJEC but the Maths teachers will explain this more to the students so again you do not need to worry.

We would have held our Open Evening tonight for current Year 6 children and their parents but we will have to run this later in the year.

I appreciate this is a worrying time as we are coping with so much uncertainty. Together we can come through it. Thank you so much for your support and please remember that we are here should you need any further help or advice with your children's learning.

Yours faithfully

Sue Moore Head