

13 January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Staff Professional Development Day and Year 11 Guidance Interviews

I am writing to let you know that we will have a professional development day on Wednesday 20th January. The school will be closed to all students to allow every staff member to receive the much needed time to develop resources and organise ideas for the remainder of this term. Student work will not therefore be set for them to complete on this day.

Year 11 Guidance Interviews

I am sure you would have noted with particular interest the announcement of the cancellation of exams as normal this summer – and that the Government will work with Ofqual and exam boards on alternative arrangements. Like yourselves, we were devastated to hear of this news. We are very keen to know exactly what this means as I am sure you are as well. At this stage we do not have any other information except for a few responses from a couple of exam boards who themselves need to know more but we will keep you updated as soon as we know more.

We are committed to make sure that our students who are studying for their examination qualifications will receive grades they deserve and be able to make the best choices for their next stage in education. We will work closely with you and your children to ensure this happens.

To this end our Year 11 students will receive guidance interviews with a member from the Senior Leadership and 6th Form teams starting this week through to Friday 29 January.

Your child will receive details on how to access the guidance interview via email.

Online Learning

We are extremely proud of how our students are engaging with their online learning. We are also aware of recent research into the potential effects of long periods of screen time. We feel that Rooks Heath has adopted the right hybrid approach which is a blend of live lessons with set online tasks. This should allow your children to take appropriate breaks from the screen and return to working at appropriate times to avoid fatigue.

I also want to reassure you as learning at home should not be a stressful experience for you and your child. As long as your children are accessing the educational tasks, keep lines of communication open with their teachers and do the best they can, they will be okay. Learning never stops. Working and studying in this way is new and unusual and will be experienced differently for everyone.

If at any point your child feels stressed or overwhelmed, then calmly support them to take regular breaks and please communicate with the school. The staff will always support your child to achieve success in their education and will exercise flexibility in adjusting the pace or difficulty of what is being taught and set in response to your child's needs to ensure progress.

Thank you to the parents who have sent us positive feedback on the lessons your children have been receiving.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Manderson
Headteacher