



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well. We are extremely proud of the positive start our students have made in their return to Winterhill. Over the past half term, they have shown a great deal of resilience and responsibility in adapting to the new structure of their education. It has been a pleasure to see our students enjoying school and accessing the education they deserve after a difficult end to the last academic year.

Unfortunately, as you will be aware in line with current government and public health guidance some students have been required to self-isolate for prolonged periods which is very frustrating for us all. When this is the case, to keep our students engaged with learning, lessons have moved onto Google Classroom with students required to follow our home learning guidance. Of course, we accept that this situation often changes very quickly, and so I would like to thank you for your continued support as your support continues to be incredibly important to the success of our school and our students' education.

Of course, I will keep you all updated of any changes via letter on our website. Any previous letters/newsletters can also be found on our parents' letters and important information page.

S. Rhodes - Headteacher

A POSITIVE START to LEARNING

In September, all students moved to smaller tutor groups of around 15 students. This has allowed us to dedicate vital time to our students' wellbeing and also explore important topics in society and within our school community. Within their new tutor groups, students have made an incredibly positive start which they can all be very proud of. As well this, across our curriculum, students have returned to their studies in a vast range of subjects from studying, 'A Christmas Carol' and engaging in creative writing within English; investigating climate change in Geography; studying medicine from Medieval England in History; exploring music style and products in Music and also mastering Pythagoras and Trigonometry in Mathematics. It has been a great pleasure to see our students thriving within the classroom once again, and enjoying engaging with learning.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

As you will be aware, any students who are required to self-isolate can access their learning via Google Classroom, this includes all lesson resources, assessments and feedback from their subject teachers. To support with time management, we recommend that students access their Google Classroom as they would their usual timetable. You can find full guidance to support home learning on our dedicated home learning page on our website.

As well as home learning, all homework is set via Google Classroom. Again, students can access all homework resources and also submit directly to their teachers via their classroom.

CATCH-UP CURRICULUM

Staff in school have been investing a lot of time in developing the school curriculum so that, over the coming months, students are able to return to topics missed during lockdown. This approach, along with thorough assessments, will allow students to catch up and keep up with their studies. Via Google classroom we will also provide bespoke support packages of interventions for those students who need them. Interventions will predominately be aimed at English and Maths and will begin for targeted students in all years after half term.

If you would like to contact me, please email **Julie Parkin**
jparkin@winterhill.org.uk - Headteachers' PA.

Thank you for your continued support
S Rhodes - Headteacher

The WEARING of FACE COVERINGS in SCHOOL

As you will be aware, as of Saturday, 24th October 2020, Rotherham has been designated Tier 3 restrictions and alert level 'very high'. Therefore, face coverings should be worn by all adults (staff and visitors) and students when entering and exiting the school building, moving around indoors at lesson changeover and in communal areas at social times. Students will also be asked to put on their face covering by their period 4 teacher before they leave the school site at 3pm. Please ensure your child has a face covering with them at all times.

PARENTS' EVENINGS 2020 - 21

Due to current restrictions, the scheduled subject parents' evenings for Y8 and Y11 will be cancelled; we will review the situation for Y10 and Y9 as we approach these events in March and May. However, to ensure you are kept up to date on your child's progress, you will continue to receive a termly data report outlining attainment, attendance and conduct. Alongside this, you will also receive a subject progress report with written comments from each subject teacher on your child's progress. Once you have received this report, your child's group tutor will contact you via telephone within the time frame below to discuss any questions you may have and the details of the subject report.

- Year 11: w/c 23rd November - w/c 30th November
- Year 8: w/c 4th January - w/c 11th January.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 23rd October: Non Uniform Day
- Group Tutor Phone calls: as above
- **Thursday, 26th November** students finish at 1:50pm for staff training.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

"When you go home, tell them of us and say,
for their tomorrow we gave our today."

On Wednesday, 11th November we will honour those who have fought and lost their lives in war via a minute's silence. We will also explore the importance of Remembrance Day via group tutor time and within appropriate lessons.