



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. You'll find in this newsletter how we've been keeping up with the ever-changing picture for schools and what our fantastic students have been up to over the last few weeks.

As you will see from our website, we continue to enhance our remote learning experience for students through our live subject seminars and tutorials, as well as weekly video assemblies. Already it's clear that, alongside google classroom lessons, these sessions have added some much-needed connection to students' subject teachers, tutors and learning experience.

As parents and carers, I'd also encourage you to sign up as a google classroom guardian; this gives you a daily summary of the work which has been set and when it has been completed. Those of you already using it, have told us how useful you have found it in supporting your children with remote learning. On that note, I would like to thank you all for all the fantastic support you have given to your children in accessing their education in this way. We know just how hard it can be, and we continue to be incredibly grateful for the strong relationships we have with our parents and the wider community.

On the big questions; when will school re-open, and what is happening with GCSEs this year? I'm afraid you know as much as I do. On exams, the consultation you will have seen on our website/social media pages has now closed. As soon as the findings are published, I will be in touch via letter. As for re-opening, we know it will not be before the 8th of March, and that we'll have two weeks' notice. Again, as soon as this information has been shared, I'll write to you with our plans.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge just how hard everyone is working at the moment and so when half term arrives (wc 15th February), I want everyone to take a well-deserved break; no google classroom, no seminars and no homework.

S. Rhodes - Headteacher

WINTERHILL WELLBEING

During the wc 1st February, we have been focussing on mental wellbeing during 'Children's Mental Health Week'. In our live tutorials and video assembly, we have centred our discussions with students around positive mental health and finding healthy ways to express ourselves in what is a very difficult time for so many.

On our social media platforms, we have launched "Express Yourself", where we are encouraging our students to think creatively about wellbeing by channelling their energy into a hobby they enjoy such as cooking, reading, walking, music or their favourite sport etc., Of course, we also have our usual support channels open for any students who need advice via our dedicated email advice@winterhill.org.uk or via our website.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION UPDATE

As the need to update parents/carers on national and school updates has dramatically increased over the last year, digital communication via parental email addresses, allows all communication to be efficient and timely.

Therefore, please can you ensure we have your correct email address on our school system. If you wish to update your details, please email: update@winterhill.org.uk with your old details, new details, your child's name and form.

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- wc 1st February: Children's Mental Health week.
- Friday, 12th February: School closes to all students for half term.
- wc 1st March: Y9 T2 Student Data Reports sent to all parental email addresses.
- wc 1st March: Y10 T2 Student Data and Subject Reports sent to all parental email addresses.

The WINTERHILL WAY: REMOTE LEARNING

Over the last few weeks, we have introduced live seminars and tutorials alongside video assemblies and teacher explanation videos to further support our students when completing their work remotely. We're pleased to say that these have been well received by students. Please ensure you are logging into your classroom for 9:00am to check for your next live seminar!

We continue to be incredibly proud of how well our students are engaging with their remote learning, which is evident from the superb examples of student work shared on our social media pages across Y7-Y11. It's clear just how well our students are adapting to the challenge and showing a great deal of resilience and responsibility.

Of course, we know that remote learning is not always easy, but we encourage all students to continue engaging with their subjects each day, and we have allocated over 160 devices to support our students with this. Furthermore, our tutors and BFL team have been working very hard to support students with their remote learning via weekly phone calls, alongside the feedback all students receive from their individual subject teachers.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS WINNERS' HALL OF FAME

To celebrate our students' hard work each week, teachers are nominating students for, "Google Classroom Champion".

All nominated students receive a text message as well as 10 achievement points, with the overall winners receiving 25 points and a certificate home, and we're proud to say, we've had over 100 winners just in January!

Our weekly winners' draw then takes place where one student (in each year) has won a £10 Amazon voucher sent to their student email address. A huge congratulations to all students!

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**