

WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School
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8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



Covid Tests

It continues to be our expectation that any pupil coming into school will have recently undertaken a PCR Covid test and obtained a negative result.

You will have seen publicity about a different type of test being supplied to schools, the Lateral Flow Test (LTF). At this time, we shall not be using this test.

The LTF has been publicised as having a 99.68% specificity rating. This figure relates to the accuracy of the test in identifying those without Covid (ie it rarely gives a false positive); it is known to give a significant level of false negatives (around 25-90% dependent on the experience of tester). There may be some merit in using it for reducing the number of asymptomatic cases in school, so reducing cross infection, but our strong preference is for the PCR test.

We expect those pupils attending school to be regularly tested. For everyone's safety this should be at least once every 2 weeks.

Covid Test Results

Please can I remind you to let the school know if any pupil receives a positive Covid-19 test result. This includes pupils currently undertaking remote working.

Revised Timetables

This term many pupils have revised timetables, particularly in Years 7 & 8. Parents should access these from MCAS.

Summer Examinations

You will know this summer's GCSE and A Level examinations have been cancelled. We do not yet know the information we will be asked to provide, nor the process for submitted grades. We will share this information once known.

Resources for Remote Learning

Please can parents advise us of any pupil who does not have access to the necessary equipment to allow them to access our remote learning offer. Please send details to generalenquiries@whsg.info with "ICT equipment needed" in the subject line.

This could include items such as a computer or not having a broadband connection. We will do our best to support any pupil where this is known.

It may be helpful, where resources are limited to, know that Google Classroom can be accessed on a Playstation or X-Box.

This link explains how to do this:

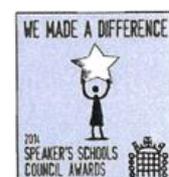
<https://www.t3.com/news/access-google-classroom-on-your-playstation-or-xbox-heres-how>



Science



Engineering



Pupils needing to be in school

School continues to be open to provide a learning space for the children of Key Workers where there is no one at home able to supervise them, or for those who are vulnerable. We have been asked to extend this to pupils who have no IT access at home.

If your child needs to use this facility, please email generalenquiries@whsg.info by the preceding Thursday to register for the following week. Please provide their name, their form and the days your child will be in school.

Year 8 Reports

As a result of the pandemic we have decided the Year 8 Full Report will only contain subject information. There will not be a Tutor Report.

Free School Meal Vouchers

Vouchers are being sent to families where their child qualifies for Free School Meals. If you do not receive these vouchers, please email st-jane.knight@whsg.info .

Sixth Form Team Changes

After five years with us, our Sixth Form Pastoral Support Coordinator, Miss Arthur, is leaving to take up a career within the NHS working with young people to support their mental health, and this process starts with her going back to University.

Miss Watson is taking over as our Sixth Form Pastoral Support Coordinator, and we welcome Miss Scott as our new Sixth Form Administrator

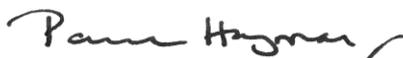
Staff Making Contact

From next week, a member of our school's staff will be telephoning once each week to check that everything is well with you and our pupils during their absence from school. In advance they will send you an email – please check your emails and respond to the member of staff to let them know the most appropriate time and day for this call to occur.

Please ensure they are made aware of any issues (anxiety, stress, lack of commitment to their work etc.) so we can signpost the right support and alert our Pastoral Team / Learning Managers as appropriate.

Stay safe!

With best wishes,



Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher