



WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Pupils needing to be in school

Last week the DfE changed its position about children being in school. It now says that in addition to vulnerable children being able to attend school:

Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

We continue to be happy to receive children in both categories.



Science



Engineering

Covid Testing

In case anyone felt last week's message about pupils getting a covid test was unclear, we are not expecting pupils undertaking remote learning to be tested, except where they develop symptoms. We do not yet know when pupils will return to school en-masse. When this is known, we will follow the science and advice from Public Health England about the need for a test before returning to school.



Well-being Calls

These will be taking place with a focus on ensuring your child is well and managing their work. If there are any significant issues occurring, please can you email the relevant Learning Manager.



Feedback from Lessons

We are pleased that the provision of remote learning is working well. We know some parents would like to see more video-conference style lessons taking place, but we have to be aware that not all pupils have access to live lessons, as IT equipment at home may need to be shared. Ofsted have said "Sometimes, it may be more effective to deliver remote education through worksheets or a textbook. All schools/colleges should have access to a digital platform so they can provide online education where that is the most appropriate method.



A good textbook can provide the curriculum content and sequencing pupils need. It can also be easier to access for some pupils."

Staff will endeavour to use a mix of remote learning styles.



Promptness of Work

Please can you remind your daughter/son that deadlines set by teachers for the submission of work must be met. Staff are spending a long time preparing lessons and uploading them, and do not have the time to follow up late work.



Cont.



Accessing Google Classroom on Games Consoles

XBox and Playstation game consoles can access Google classroom and Docs, Sheets and Slides. If pupils have a keyboard and Mouse, they can connect these and use them as normal. Unfortunately, these consoles do not provide access to Zoom.

Students in Video-Conference Lessons

There has been an incident where some students have allowed friends to be part of a video-lesson who are not part of that class.

Teachers have now been advised that any student joining a video-conference that is not identifiable from their name will not be allowed into the lesson. If they access the lesson from a device that is not their own, then their surname must be clear.

Make a Difference: Give a Laptop

Do you have an old laptop or tablet at home that could be refurbished and given to a school pupil in need?

This is a link to the campaign:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p093cwh6>

As a school we have signed up to this scheme.

If you have an old laptop or tablet you can donate, please send it to school and mark it for the attention of Mrs L Davy.

Free School Meal Support

We are still providing free school meal support for eligible pupils in all Years 7-13 whether the pupil is studying at home or in school. It is possible that your child has recently become eligible for free school meals as a result of meeting one of these criteria:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400;
- Income Support;
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit;
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit);
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190.

To confirm eligibility please access the Southend Borough Council website to complete a short online form:

https://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200343/help_with_costs/56/free_school_meals

The school can also perform a simple online check to see if you are eligible. All information is kept confidential at all times.

You will need the following information to complete the form:

- First and Last Name of parent(s) that child resides with;
- Date of Birth of parent(s) above;
- National Insurance Number of parent(s).

Other Finance Support

In addition to free school meal support, the winter grant scheme offers additional financial assistance for families in need. For example, for those that reside in Essex, Southend and Thurrock, applications for assistance can be made here:

<https://www.southend.gov.uk/extra-financial-help/essential-living-fund>

Other local authorities are providing similar support. If you need any support identifying funding available, please contact generalenquiries@whsg.info.

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Period Products

A reminder that we are able to source period products at no cost for distribution to our pupils. If you would like a supply to be sent home, please email generalenquiries@whsg.info and we will arrange to have these products delivered on a regular basis.

16-19 bursary

A reminder to 6th form students who may require financial support, you might be eligible for funding through the 16-19 bursary to assist access to learning. Please contact Ms Watson: st-theresa.watson@whsg.info for more information.

Increasing Data Allowances

As part of the government provision to support learning, we can apply for increased data allowances for those in Year 7 - 11 who do not have fixed broadband at home. Please contact Mrs Louise Davy: louise.davy@seeat.org if you think you might be eligible for this scheme.

Access to BBC Bitesize

BT, EE and Plusnet are enabling Bitesize to be used without data charges from the end of January. Please see this link for details:

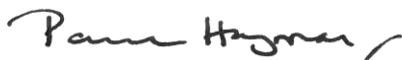
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55616959>

Health Message

Please see the attached letter from the East of England Children and Young People's Diabetes Network

Stay safe!

With best wishes,



Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher



East of England Children and Young People's Diabetes Network
Box 280 The Weston Centre
Addenbrooke's Hospital
Hills Road
Cambridge
CB2 0QQ

Dear Parents,

The NHS has asked for this message to be sent out to you.

Undiagnosed Type 1 diabetes in children requires urgent medical attention.

If your child has **ANY** of the main symptoms of Type 1 diabetes please make an **urgent** GP appointment or contact the Out of Hours service. The main symptoms are known as the 4 Ts – Thirst, Toilet, Tiredness, Thinner. If you notice your child is thirsty or using the toilet more frequently, is always feeling tired, or has lost weight recently, seek immediate medical advice.

NHS services are very well equipped to look after children safely if they are unwell. Please do not delay seeking medical advice because of Covid-19.

There is more information available here:

<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/diabetes-the-basics/diabetes-symptoms>