



WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

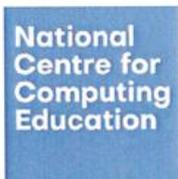
An Academy Grammar School
Headteacher: Dr Paul Hayman BSc



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Telephone: 01702 476026
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22nd January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Pupils needing to be in school

If your child meets the criteria for working in school and you need them to attend, please ensure you email their name, form and the days they will be in, by Thursday of the preceding week, to generalenquiries@whsg.info. Students attending school must attend 8:30 – 3:30 and are not allowed to leave early.



Ofqual Consultation on Summer Examinations

The school will be making its response to the current consultation taking place about how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded in summer 2021.

Pupils and parents can also express their views using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>



Length of Lessons

We are aware that many pupils are finding the amount of work they have to undertake to be a challenge. During this temporary school closure, we have slightly increased the time expected for each lesson to 50 minutes but, appreciating that some students spend longer on tasks, we have asked teachers not to set homework to Years 7-11.



Homework and Study Beyond Lessons

While pupils in Years 7-11 should not receive homework tasks, staff may choose to set extended project or coursework over a series of lessons.

There is a reasonable expectation that pupils in Years 12 and 13 do study during non-timetabled lessons. For that reason, we have said that each subject area may set up to 2 hours of work beyond lesson time each week.



Pupils Submitting Work

If your daughter/son does not submit work on time they will be reminded to complete it. Unfortunately, work submitted late can often add to staff workload. To eliminate this, any assessed work not submitted by a published deadline or any other work more than 48 hours late will not be marked and a zero score recorded. This may also affect future PT grades in the subject concerned. Staff will always do their best to mark work that is late when there is a genuine reason for this.



Emails

There have been a number of instances where staff have contacted pupils by email but not received a response. Please can you ensure your child is checking for and reading these emails.



Cont.



The Working Day

One benefit of remote teaching/working is that pupils can have some flexibility as to when they undertake work and balance this with other activities. However, we would ask that pupils are available and join in at the right time for any live lessons.

Zoom/Video-lessons

Some parents have asked for more 'live lessons.'

In an ideal world we would like every remote lesson to be 'live' but not only do we have families where IT equipment has to be shared, but teachers also have to juggle family lives with the delivery of remote teaching.

As written last week, Ofsted have said that 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."

Our staff will continue with a variety of delivery styles.

Zoom-Bombing

There have been some instances of pupils who are not part of our school joining a teacher's lesson.

As part of our safeguarding procedures, staff record lessons. We have asked that all our pupils should be identifiable when taking part in one of these lessons.

Postings on Social Media

Some pupils have separately videoed or copied part of a lesson delivered via Zoom and posted the recording on social media. Some pupils have then commented on staff's appearance.

Any pupil we identify doing this will be sanctioned, and this can include a formal exclusion which will go on their school record.

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.

Supporting your child through the national lockdown and supporting her/his remote learning

Miss Smith has created a video for parents to watch which can be accessed through your daughter's/son's Google account. It will be available after 6pm today.

The link to the video is:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hGOk1U_UMZsqVZJzWLT2xsdEqrHUq8TK/view?usp=sharing

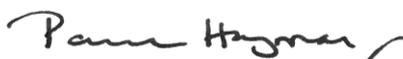
The Parents' Guide to Studying for GCSE and A Levels 2020/21

We have been asked to provide this link to parents, where there are free guides advising how to help children stay on track studying for either GCSE or A levels this year now schools are closed (to the majority of students) and most official exams have been cancelled. These guides will be updated as new information is released. The link is:

<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/coronavirus>

Stay safe!

With best wishes,



Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher