



# WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

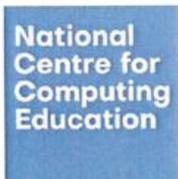
An Academy Grammar School  
Headteacher: Dr Paul Hayman BSc



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12<sup>th</sup> March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well.



Science

We have been pleased to welcome back pupils as we begin their phased return.

Our LFD testing facility has been very efficient and we are grateful to the Local Authority for their support in making this provision.



Engineering

We have managed to follow the schedule sent out last week, and have now begun issuing home test kits to students who have completed the required 3 supervised tests.

The information provided to students along with the tests is given at the end of this letter.



### **Parental Consent for Testing at School**

To allow in school testing to occur we need parental consent.

Please can you complete this Microsoft Form to provide this:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=r9Cu3KLVEKS5-CwGrFsg-G6qK-X3CdMv-jA9Eed1cpUMINJOEJVMVJQOU1ZU1g5WTZKWJIVjIPRS4u>

**We cannot arrange for your child to undertake a Covid test without this consent.**



Southend-on-Sea

### Forthcoming Parents Evenings

We have 2 Parents Evenings left this term.

These are for:

Year 7 Parents on 18<sup>th</sup> March

Year 13 Parents on 25<sup>th</sup> March

Both these will take place remotely, and you will have been sent details as to how to make appointments.



### Year 11 Parents Evening

The postponed Year 11 Parents Evening has now been rescheduled for Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Details will be sent out nearer to this date.



### Subject Tests for Years 11 & 13

During the next half-term we will be carrying out assessments to assess pupils' current levels of attainment across what has been taught so far, and qualify the grade to be awarded. These assessments will include a mixture of longer and shorter tests.



To ensure pupils are able to revise effectively, we have agreed that no new teaching should take place for Year 11 or Year 13 after this Friday. This is earlier than we originally planned, but it is clear from the guidance that grades should only be based on what has been learned so far.



Departments have been asked to advise pupils about the skills and areas of knowledge being assessed each time.



Cont.



Year 11 students will undertake mini assessments throughout next half term, culminating in a formal assessment week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Year 13 students have two weeks when formal testing will take place: these are the w/c 12<sup>th</sup> April and the w/c 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Smaller assessments will take place in-between these dates.

For both Year 11 & Year 13. we have left some time before the grades have to be submitted to allow for any pupils who cannot be in for a formal test to come in later and catch up.

#### Bridging Courses

In the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> June subject areas will offer Bridging Courses to Year 13 and Year 11 students who would like to come in on a voluntary basis to finish any course. This may be particularly helpful to any student wishing to study a subject at a higher level.

#### End of Year Exams for Years 7-9

Given the amount of disruption that has taken place, we are not going to undertake formal end of Year exams for Years 7-9. Instead, departments will continue to assess attainment through the usual process. This decision should help to provide some extra time this academic year for work to be caught up and reinforced.

Formal exams will be reinstated next year.

#### School Examinations for Year 10

These were postponed from their original date, which would have meant taking them next week! These have now been rescheduled to take place in the w/c 26<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Year 12 Exams

We are delaying these so they now take place after half term. These will now take place in the w/c 14<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Year 8 Options

Please ensure the Options choices are made and submitted by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

#### Homework and Study Periods

Please be aware that when pupils are in school, they can be set homework as per the homework timetable.

Homework will not be set in the week when they undertake remote learning.

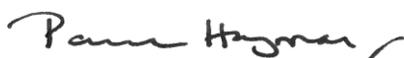
Sixth Form students may also be set work to undertake in Study Periods.

#### AV1 Units or Avatars

We have been loaned three AV1 robots to provide targeted support for specific pupils who are unable to attend school for a variety of reasons. To support their learning, we are going to introduce these robots, called an AV1, in some classes. This will allow the pupil to access the work and (to an extent) take part in the lesson.

Information about the use of these Avatars can be found at the end of today's letter.

With best wishes,



Dr Paul Hayman  
**Headteacher**

## **Lateral Flow Device Covid-19 Testing: Information for Students**

At school we are taking part in scheme that uses the Lateral Flow Device to test for Covid-19. The tests are only to be taken if you are asymptomatic, that is - you have no symptoms of Covid-19.

**If you develop symptoms of Covid-19 at any time you must immediately self-isolate and obtain a PCR test, even if you've recently tested negative.**

**Anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 should not take part in further testing for 90 days.**

### **Reporting Covid-19 Test Results**

**Each time** you have a test for Covid-19 you need to **report the result to the NHS**. We also need any positive result submitted to the school (see below).

If you take a test at a registered site (including that at St Thomas More, or in school), the NHS will automatically get your result.

If you use a home testing kit, you will need to submit your result to the NHS. Details of how to report it are in the self-testing guide provided with the kit.

#### Reporting Positive Results to the School.

We have sent your parents a link to an online form to complete, but know many of you will be doing this yourself. The link to this form is:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=r9Cu3kLVEKS5-CwGrFsg-G6qK-X3CdMv-jA9Eed1cpUQVZTRTYzS0s1Q00zQjNCSEIBTkH0WUJJVS4u>

**Please agree with your parents as to who will complete this form.**

It is imperative that this form is completed as soon as possible after being notified of a positive result from a LFD or PCR test.

### **What happens if my Lateral Flow Test outcome is POSITIVE?**

You must begin to self-isolate.

**You must notify the school of the result.**

The school will also require anyone who has been a close contact in the preceding 48 hours to also self-isolate.

#### If the test was carried out at a testing site

If the LFD test was carried out at a testing site (including ours at school) then you must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive test. The school will also require anyone who has been a close contact in the preceding 48 hours to also self-isolate for 10 days.

#### Home tests

If the LFD test was carried out at home, then you must seek a confirmatory PCR test. During this time, you and your close contacts must self-isolate.

**You must notify the school of the result.**

If the PCR result is positive, then you must self isolate for 10 days from the date of the original LFD test, and close contacts must also adhere to this period of self-isolation.

If the PCR result is negative, then you and all close contacts can resume normal activities.

## Information about the AV1 unit

Some pupils will be accessing their lessons through a telepresence robot called AV1. AV1 enables them to partake in the vital education and social aspects of school from home or the hospital bed.



*Image above shows the AV1 robot in the classroom setting.*

AV1 sits in the classroom in place of the child, and the child can then join in lessons by listening, watching the teacher, asking questions, and participating in discussions. The child will be operating AV1 from a phone or tablet, wherever they might be undergoing treatment or recovering.

### Live streaming

AV1 transmits a live stream, from the AV1 to the AV1 users' tablet. This means that no data is recorded. The live stream is end-to-end encrypted, meaning it is impossible for any external party to access the video/audio sent from the AV1. It is not possible to record or screenshot when using the AV1 app on an Android device.

### Knowing who is accessing AV1

Only one user can be connected to the AV1 at any time. You'll know the user is connected when the eyes light up. The AV1 user must enter this 4-digit code each time they wish to use their AV1. In addition, the AV1 user/their guardian are required to digitally accept terms and conditions, which state that only the AV1 user will be using the AV1.



*Image above shows what the AV1 user can see on their tablet.*

These security features are in place to protect your child who will be in the same class as AV1, as well as the child who is not able to attend school. Normal safeguarding procedures operated to keep your child safe in school will continue to be applied.