



Mrs S Bridger
Headteacher

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Dear Parent/Carer/Guardian,

I would like to start this letter with a thank you for supporting us as we have transitioned back to remote learning. Attendance and levels of engagement has largely been positive, and I thank all of the parents who are supporting home learning, whilst many of you are juggling your own jobs and other dependents. I appreciate many families could be sharing devices and it is sometimes difficult for home learning to be watched live, therefore all lessons are recorded and can be viewed and assignments submitted at a later time.

The expectation is that **all students** access learning via Teams. Lessons are running as if we were at school, therefore it is vital that our students access their learning remotely. I am requesting that students contribute to all lessons by having their cameras on and fully participate as they would when physically in school. Backgrounds on Teams can be blurred, which is a useful facility. I am sure you will agree that switching cameras on is important, as this is the nearest we can get to face to face education at this time. Staff will continue to call parents to check if they need any support with accessing Teams when students are not in lessons. With much more of our time being spent online, I would like to remind everyone about making sure that they stay safe online, which will be a whole school focus in our Teams thread next week. I would also like to remind students about making sure that they are only using the Teams chat facility to discuss and ask questions about learning; it is not social media. Students should demonstrate our EMPLOY ME values when using Teams, just as they do in school.

As you know we are running an in-school provision for key worker and vulnerable students. If your circumstances have changed due to Government announcements this week and you are a key worker that needs to send your son/ward into school to access this provision, please email keyworkerGA@sflt.org.uk and we can arrange this with you.

If your son/ward receives Free School Meals, you can receive a hamper of food to use at home for lunches each week. You will receive a text message informing you of date and times for collection each week. If you are isolating and therefore cannot collect your food hamper, please contact the school office between 9am and 3pm. We are hoping to revert back to the voucher scheme used previously, and as soon as we have further information, I will get this out to you.

As you are aware, the DfE stated that schools could decide to run BTEC/Vocational exams the night before the exams were due to start. With many students having fully prepared and revised for these exams, we were left making a decision that would satisfy all parties. The decision was taken to continue with exams, but I would like to reinforce that students will not be penalised by the school should they decide not to attend examinations. I still do not know how the Centre assessed grades will be calculated, and as soon as I have further information, I will of course communicate this to you.

With very low numbers of key worker/vulnerable students in school, examination students will not come in to contact with many people. Covid secure measures are in place with additional spacing between each examination desk. Students that are sitting exams will head to the canteen via the DT entrance and they will need to arrive at least 15 minutes before the exam is scheduled to start. Whilst in the building, face masks are worn (unless exempt), hands are washed or sanitised upon entry and social distancing is maintained. All students are expected to wear their normal uniform into school please.

As announced, GCSE and A-level exams will not happen for those in Year 11 and 13 who were due to take them this year. We have not yet received guidance of how grades will be awarded but we do know it will be through some form of teacher assessment. Year 11 and 13, in particular, need to ensure they are attending ALL lessons virtually and completing all work to the best of their ability – their final grades could depend on their engagement in lessons and testing within lessons. Based on last year, we know that grades awarded by teachers must be based on evidence, therefore engagement with lessons both virtually and in person (when that happens) is more important than ever.

Many parents and students have contacted us to ask for details of their timetables. I would like to remind all parents/carers that we have the SIMs Parents App which gives much information, including any reports and timetables. If you have not yet signed up, please see further information held on our website: <http://www.sflt.org.uk/greenacre/parents/sims-parent-app/>

Finally, should you have any comments, wish to speak with us, please either email the school or contact us via the Facebook direct message facility. Please do follow us on both Facebook and Twitter.

Please stay in touch with us, we are always here to help and support our school community and of course enjoy your weekend and above all else, stay safe.

My warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Bridger', with a stylized flourish above the 'i'.

Mrs S Bridger
Headteacher