



# HOE VALLEY SCHOOL

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**Head Teacher:** Mrs J Davies

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night in which he set out the new restrictions for the third National Lockdown, I would like to provide you with a clear plan of how Hoe Valley School intends to respond to this news and deliver remote learning over the course of the next six weeks.

## **Year 11 GCSEs and BTEC exams**

In last night's government announcement, the PM was clear that GCSE exams will not run as planned this Summer and today the Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove has said that Education Secretary Gavin Williamson would make a statement about alternative assessments tomorrow. He said the decision was made after the UK's chief medical officers recommended a move to COVID-19 threat level five. At this point in time, Vocational Exams such as BTECs are, however, still scheduled to take place this Friday, 8th January but I suspect given the current circumstances they too will be cancelled. If the situation changes at all we will let you know immediately how this affects your son/daughter. It is an extremely challenging time for our Year 11 students and I fully understand how disappointing this news is for them but as you know, we will do our very best to support them and prepare them for the alternative assessments. It is very important that students continue to work hard as the grades they receive in the Summer will be a reflection of this work and students will be justly rewarded.

## **Remote learning**

We are very proud of how all students at Hoe Valley School have engaged with their online learning yesterday and the use of technology through Google Meets has enhanced the quality of this provision. Lessons will be recorded for safeguarding purposes and to ensure that all students are maintaining standards of behaviour and CIRCLE values. We will continue to deliver a full timetable online including tutor time in the mornings and this will be an opportunity for your child/ren to have a conversation with their tutor and discuss anything that is worrying them. Students will also be expected to attend assemblies with their Head of Year and PSHE lessons with their tutors. Click here for more information. [Click here for more information](#)

As the message from the Government is 'STAY AT HOME' it is important that we set out clear expectations of the time teachers can be available to speak to students. As you can appreciate, teachers have families too and will not always be online at the same time as the lesson is scheduled on students' timetables. Teachers will, however, plan excellent lessons and feedback to students via Google Classrooms and data will be presented to you in the usual format of online school reports as would be the case if students were in school. That said, knowing the dedication of our teachers, I expect many will be available to deliver live lessons and TAs will also be available to support learning during the allocated lesson time.

Please encourage your child/ren to fully engage with the online learning, and contribute to live lessons as much as possible, in order to ensure they get as much value as possible from the experience.

### **Free School Meals**

If your child is entitled to a Free School Meal, you will receive vouchers from the School Office by email. Any student who is attending school will receive a FSM packed lunch.

### **Vulnerable children and children of Critical Workers**

We will remain open only for students who cannot be looked after at home. This lockdown is different to the first one in that the new variant of COVID-19 spreads like wildfire, and I urge you to consider the welfare of our staff and other children in the School before making your final decision to send your child in. These students should attend School at the normal time of 8.30am - 4pm and enter the building via the School Reception where they will have their temperature checked and be registered before going to the Hall for their learning. Students need to attend School in their full uniform and they need to bring headphones in order to enable them to engage fully in the learning. Students will need to wear their mask at all times while in the Hall completing their online learning.

### **Feedback on progress**

Student feedback will often be live and verbal and any written work will be marked online and feedback via Google Classrooms. If a student misses more than 20% of lessons in a week, their tutor will be made aware and if a pattern emerges, the Head of Year will make contact with you.

### **Y8 and Y11 Parents' Evenings**

As you know, both of these Parents' Evenings are scheduled to take place this half term. We will, therefore, run them remotely on the planned dates:

Year 8 - Wednesday 3rd February from 4:30-7pm

Year 11 - Wednesday 10th February from 4:30-7pm

If your child is in Year 8, you will receive a letter next week outlining the process and if your child is in Year 11, you will receive a letter week beginning 18th January.

### **Y8 Preference Evening**

This event will be virtual and take place on Monday 25th January. Plans are already underway for it to be as informative and enjoyable as possible and we look forward to 'seeing you' soon. Detailed plans will be emailed directly to the parents and carers of Year 8 students nearer the time.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

We all know the benefits of exercise on both our physical and mental wellbeing and I'm sure you remember Joe Wicks and his daily workouts during the first lockdown? We now have our very own HVS Lockdown Workouts! Every day of the new lockdown, Ms Mertens will be leading a HIIT workout tailored to Hoe Valley School students but also available to all. With schools closed, this is your chance to get training with an expert teacher!

Please tell students, friends, family, the milkman, anybody else you can think of, to subscribe and share our new YouTube channel! [Just click on this link](#)

Students who normally receive counselling at School will have received a letter from Ms Wood (Head of Personalisation) yesterday, inviting them to engage in online counselling sessions. Obviously we have a limited number of places but if you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, please do get in touch with Ms Wood and we will do our best to offer you support. Alternatively, apps can offer a great opportunity to support individuals with the management of their mental health and wellbeing – the problem can be knowing which apps are effective and appropriate. To address this issue, Surrey & Borders Partnership Foundation NHS Trust (SABP) have partnered with ORCHA (the Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Apps) to deliver an online library of rated health apps focussed on supporting young people in Surrey. You can find the site at <https://sabp.orch.co.uk/> it's free to use and there's no need to create an account.

### Mass Testing

In my letter to you yesterday, I explained the process of mass testing which we intend to roll out at Hoe Valley School. Although we are living through an ever changing situation, if you would like your child to participate in taking a Lateral Flow Test, please complete the Google Form which was in the letter. We will continue to prepare this process for when students return to school next half term.

Finally, I wish you all the best with home learning and hope that you and your families remain safe and healthy throughout the coming weeks. Please do get in touch with us if you have any queries or concerns by contacting [office@hoevalleyschool.org](mailto:office@hoevalleyschool.org).

Best Wishes,



Mrs Jane Davies  
Head Teacher