



**Etone College**  
www.etonecollege.co.uk

ISM/TEM/Letters/Parents/Update ltr Feb 21

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, the Government has given a date for the possible return for schools as 8<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest. This means that we will continue to teach pupils remotely for the remainder of this term and at least the first two weeks of next term. As we find out more information we will, of course, keep you updated.

In light of this, please could we share the following points:

- Firstly, can I start by saying “thank you” to all of those parents who have written, emailed and sent texts to school to express their support and thanks and provided positive feedback about our remote education provision. These comments have been shared with staff. I know they are always very pleased to receive such positive comments and really appreciate your kind words and support.
- Pupil attendance has been very good and pupils are engaging well with our remote education package. In the first four weeks of this term, we logged 55,140 hours of live lessons on Teams! I am very proud of how staff and pupils alike have adapted during these difficult times. **Every lesson in the week is equally valuable so do please encourage your child to attend all lessons.** We have recently built in “transition time” between lessons to allow a short break meaning that pupils should be able to log into each lesson on time. **Where lessons have been missed or there are ongoing concerns about attendance, you will be contacted by your House Office. Also, just to make you aware, when a pupil has an invitation to a Teams lesson by email, they should accept it or it will not show in their weekly calendar. All pupils should accept all invitations on Teams** – if there is a problem, at a later date due to illness where they are unable to attend, they should then email their teacher.
- **In line with Government guidance, we have put in place weekly activities to check on progress which allows us to provide feedback to the pupils.** These will have been explained in lessons to pupils and will be a mixture of activities set on Teams or online learning platforms. **It is vital that pupils complete these according to the deadlines set by their teachers. We would very much appreciate your support in ensuring that these activities are complete.** Again, if there are concerns about a lack of engagement, you will be contacted by your House Office.
- **Pupil well-being is always of the utmost importance to us.** We have, therefore, recently introduced a weekly pastoral session where pupils have the opportunity to catch up with their form tutor to discuss any concerns that they may have and also for them engage with our PSHE and Theme of the Week programmes. **This is an essential part of your child’s education and all pupils should attend.**
- Please remember to follow us on our range of Twitter accounts and regularly look out for good news stories celebrating pupil success in each of our subject areas.
- We are also providing a weekly newsletter with updates which we hope you have been finding useful as an extra form of communication during school closure. This includes different competitions and activities that pupils may wish to become involved in as well as ways in which you can continue to support your child with their home learning and wellbeing. Please look out for information regarding safety and also children’s mental health week.
- **Finally, just to confirm that, in line with Government guidance, we will be closed to all pupils from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. There will be no provision for any pupils on site that week and there will be no remote learning. The training day scheduled for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February has been postponed and will be re-scheduled at a later date. Remote learning will therefore take place as normal on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February.** We will re-open the site for key worker and vulnerable pupils only and remote lessons will begin again on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Many thanks, once again, for your ongoing support – more than ever, the partnership between home and school is so very important. Enjoy the half term break.

Yours faithfully

**Mr I Smith**  
**Headteacher**



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**MATRIX**  
ACADEMY  
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