



Hebburn Comprehensive School

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DRT/KM

Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

7 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that all families are safe and well.

Following recent announcements from the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education, I thought it would be a good time to provide an update on the following:

CRITICAL WORKERS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

We are currently open for parents and carers to send their children into school (by prior arrangement), but only if there is no other option available. The purpose of the lockdown is to stop the spread of the virus. Therefore, if your child does not have to attend school, please do not send them in. We are very happy to see the pupils in school who need to be, and they are doing extremely well. We have staff in school to support pupils with the remote learning they would otherwise be doing at home. Lunches are available in school, so please remember to top up your child's account, if they wish to access the lunch service. Children in receipt of free school meals will receive their lunch in the normal way. Pupils in school are in bubbles in computer rooms.

REMOTE LEARNING

We understand that this can be a challenging time for pupils and their families, and we have responded as quickly as possible to any queries. Should children still have difficulty in accessing Teams or any on-line resources, please check the following link: [Remote Learning Support – Hebburn Comprehensive School](#). If you are still having issues, please contact the school.

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| Year 7 queries email | year7support@hebburn.net |
| Year 8 queries email | year8support@hebburn.net |
| Year 9 queries email | year9support@hebburn.net |
| Year 10 queries email | year10support@hebburn.net |
| Year 11 queries email | year11support@hebburn.net |

It is important that pupils get into positive routines and do not treat this as an extension to the holiday.

It was confirmed yesterday that centre-assessed grades will be used again this summer to determine pupils' results. We will continue to assess pupils as best we can, both remotely and once they return to school. It is, therefore, imperative that all pupils, particularly exam classes in Year 11, engage fully with all work set, as teachers will be using all available evidence to assist with final assessment grades around May/June time. Please note that any grades, including grades for college applications, that pupils receive before the final outcomes in the summer should not be viewed as the grade that will be awarded, as this will be done against a set of strict criteria set by the government that has not been released to schools yet. A comprehensive moderation process will take place before any final grades are arrived at and awarded.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The Government has announced the reintroduction of a voucher scheme for those pupils not currently in school, but who are entitled to receive free school meals. We will update you when we have clarification on how the voucher scheme will operate.

VOCATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

The Secretary of State for Education announced yesterday afternoon that:

- The government's position is that they will not be asking students to sit GCSE examinations this year. Working alongside Ofqual, the Department for Education (DfE) will consult on how to award all pupils a grade that reflects the hard work they have done up to now and will continue to do.
- January vocational exams are to go ahead at schools' discretion and the following statement was issued late last night by the Examination Boards:

If your college or school decides to offer exams, you will be able to run your external assessments as planned and if your school or college decides not to offer vocational exams, we have agreed the following with Ofqual and the DfE to ensure that no learner is disadvantaged:

- We will certificate any learner who is unable to take their exams and has enough evidence to receive a certificate that they need for progression.
- Learners unable to take their assessment this January may be able to take their assessment at a later date. If that is not possible, we will put in place arrangements to ensure no learner is disadvantaged.

We have given this careful consideration and are happy to hold the exams for those who feel they would benefit from attempting them. To ensure we are fully prepared for this, we ask that any pupils wishing to sit the VTCT Hairdressing exam on Friday 8 January to confirm this by emailing Miss Richardson at richardsons@hebburn.net.

It is important to note that no pupil will be disadvantaged by not taking the exam; our priority remains to ensure the safety of our families.

STAFF TRAINING DAY POSTPONED

The INSET day planned for Friday 15 January has now been postponed. This means that remote learning and in-school provision for vulnerable children and children of critical workers will be in place on that day. We have contacted the training provider and have provisionally rescheduled the staff training for Friday 9 July, but we will confirm this after Easter.

We will continue to provide regular updates and would like to thank you for your continued support in the challenging circumstances we find ourselves in again.

Stay safe, stay positive and take care. We will get through this.

Yours sincerely



David Thompson
Head Teacher