



Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Firstly I would like to congratulate our students for the way they are completing their remote learning. The number of students handing in work and the quality of the work being done is testament to the independence and maturity of our young people and the wonderful support they receive from their parents and carers. I would like to support all parents by taking this opportunity to remind all students that they need to be up, dressed, had breakfast and sat down ready to work at 8.50am in order that they are ready for any live lessons which may start at 9.20. Students should have a copy of their normal school timetable to hand and complete the work set for the subjects they have on that day.

Use of Satchel

Student and staff proficiency using the Satchel platform has improved greatly throughout both lockdowns. Please remind students that to access the full functionality of the platform they should be logged on and use a laptop, chromebook or desktop rather than a mobile device which only provides a small fraction of the information available on a 'proper computer'.

Access via games consoles

It might be that the games console can be a source of friction in some households, could actually provide some very productive help (not that I am detracting from the social contact many students get from online gaming which can have some very positive benefits). Some students might be able to access their remote learning platforms through an Xbox or PlayStation. These guides explain how they can access Google Classroom and MS Teams via their consoles. There's also a link to a new connectivity support scheme from BT.

- [Accessing Google Classroom via Xbox and PS4](#)
- [Using Office 365 and Teams via Xbox or PlayStation](#) and YouTube [guide to accessing Teams](#)
- ['Lockdown Learning' support scheme from BT](#)

Inset Afternoon - Wednesday 3rd February.

As you may remember we cancelled the inset day we had planned on the 18th January. As this was the day originally scheduled for schools to reopen after the extended Christmas holiday we felt it was not the right time to hold a staff training day.

However, we have been hugely fortunate to secure the services of a very well regarded trainer who is going to deliver some online training on providing effective feedback to students in a time efficient way. This will help our teachers in the current remote learning situation and will also provide longer term benefit.

Therefore, there will be no remote learning set for next Wednesday afternoon. Students working at home should use this time to carry out some enriching activities such as exercise, creative tasks or something else away from their desks and screens, they could act on feedback they have received on the work they have done so far or, if necessary, catch up on any work they may have missed.

The students working in school will be free to leave (with parental permission) at 1pm. However, due to the late notice of this Inset we can supervise them in school if this is required. We are investigating what busses

OCC transport can provide at these times. Could parents of students in school please email me on sbamford@langtreeschool.com to let me know which of the following options they would prefer

1. My child can leave at 1pm and can make their own way home or will be collect
2. My child would like to catch the school bus at 1pm, please include information about which bus they catch.
3. My child should stay in school until their usual finish time and will then be collected/allowed to make their own way home

I apologise for the late notice regarding this closure but we were only able to secure this very valuable opportunity very late in the day.

Year 11

We await with interest the results of the consultation on how year 11 GCSE and other qualification grades will be awarded this summer. As soon as we have further information about the process and how Langtree will ensure that all students get the grades they deserve and the support they need to move onto post 16 education, we will let you and the students know. For now, the students must continue to engage completely with the remote learning being set as this will ensure they are ready to achieve highly whatever the system turns out to be.

We are now writing the year 11 reports. The information reported and the format of the report has been adapted to take account of the lack of mock exams, the uncertainty regarding the awarding of exam grades this summer and remote learning context that students are having to endure. More explanation will be included with the report.

We will produce an additional report once we know how the students will be assessed and they have had a chance to complete their mocks in the subjects where this is appropriate.

Finally, as we head towards half term, albeit one without the skiing that I traditionally look forward to at this time of year, I hope you all have a productive last couple of weeks and enjoy the break when it arrives.

Warm regards

Simon Bamford and all the staff at Langtree School