

Friday 15th January

Dear Parents and Carers

As we enter our second week of remote learning I would like to thank you for supporting your child with attending online lessons. We have had very good attendance to lessons and a good submission rate of work. As a mum myself, I know how challenging homeschooling can be and I would like you to know that as a school we are here to make it as easy as possible for you. Here are some notices that I hope you may find useful.

### **Technology**

For your child to fully access learning it is useful that they have the following:

- Their own device (not shared)
- A microphone on the device
- A camera to take pictures of their work and upload it
- A quiet place to study.

They must be logged in from their school account.

If your child does not have any of the above please do not worry. Please contact the school [info@hackneynewschoolcst.org](mailto:info@hackneynewschoolcst.org) or by telephone. We have a number of items we can share with students and we are very happy to do so. If it is difficult for your child to have a quiet place to study at home please also contact the school. We will be able to help.

If your child has trouble accessing lessons please contact the school directly and we can support. We may be able to accommodate your child in school. Our Inclusion and EAL team are also able to help students in school as well as at home so please contact Ms Sultana to discuss any area of your child's education.

### **Exams 2021**

As you may be aware, it was announced last week that GCSE and A Level examinations would not be going ahead this summer. The government announced that teachers' estimated grades will be used to replace cancelled GCSEs in England this summer. There is an ongoing consultation about what to do next. It seems likely that some form of externally set tests for Year 11 will take place, marked by teachers within the school. These tests will be used to back up the teacher's final judgement of student progress. Hence, the teacher's opinion of how well your child is doing will be very important.

The government has indicated that Year 11 students will be returning to school this term and they will be in school for longer, possibly until the end of term in July, so that they can catch up on their learning.

I would urge you to make sure that your child engages with online learning now as what they learn during lockdown is likely to affect their final grade.

Please also attend our **Parents' Information Evening at 5 pm on Tuesday 19th January** if your child is in year 11. Please see Mr Hussain's letter for joining details.

### **Attendance to lessons**

Attendance to all lessons is mandatory. Lessons start at 8:50 and end at 2:40 or 3:30. Your child has a 20 minute break at 10:30 and a 30 minute break at 12:30. If your child is not online at these times for any reason please call the school. We will be following up all absences with you as it is important no child falls behind. Please note your child will be asked to submit work every lesson and teachers will follow up with you if this isn't done.

### **Wellbeing support**

We know that this time of uncertainty can bring about challenges for us all. It's important that our young people, and our parents and carers, take care of themselves. Please take some time to go through the useful information and supportive links offered by *Mind* in the borough of Hackney by clicking [here](#).

I wish you and your families well at this very difficult time for us all.

Yours sincerely



**Charlotte Whelan**  
Headteacher