

29 January 2021

TO ALL FAMILIES

Dear Families

What a week it has been, starting with the excitement the snow brought with it on Monday! The whole site was covered with a magical blanket of snow around 5cm deep. Pupils and students had a great time on makeshift sledges and throwing (socially distanced) snowballs. It was so wonderful to be able to see the children engaging in outdoor play together and with staff, forgetting the burdens placed on them by the pandemic and just being children for the day. It was worth every moment of shovelling snow from the drive and directing diverted traffic!



We have also been busy making some adjustments to our remote offer based on your helpful feedback. With more pupils and students attending lessons in school, we have worked on some adjustments that mean our staff are able to integrate learning for pupils and students on site with those learning at home. The goal is to increase the amount of subject specialist teaching and support for everyone. It is likely that we will be working in this way for the next 5 weeks at least, based on the Government's announcement that schools nationally will remain closed until March 3rd to all but vulnerable pupils and those of keyworker families. With this in mind, these changes will include:

- The better organisation of work and resources in classrooms to aid pupils/students and families to find things easily now that virtual classrooms are busy hubs of activity
- More live lessons streamed via Google Classroom for upper school pupils and student (from Wednesday 3rd February)
- More pre-recorded bite-size video tutorials on universal aspects such as;
 - Life skills e.g. banking, cooking
 - Health and fitness e.g. workouts, nutrition
 - Key academic skills e.g. written methods for calculation, BIDMAS, spelling rules, AFOREST techniques
 - Leisure activities e.g. origami, playing an instrument
 - Therapy e.g. mindfulness, ways to relax, fine motor exercises

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- For some Lower School classes, there have been some minor adjustments which have been posted in your class stream

We hope you will welcome these changes and, as ever, would love to hear from you if you have suggestions or feedback.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Perry
Vice Principal