



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Newsletter (11) – 19th October 2020

Important Announcement Thursday 22nd October Additional INSET day

Yesterday I wrote to all families explaining about the meetings I have had with Public Health over the weekend. It seems clear that we can expect disruption to learning to continue for the weeks ahead and therefore how we provide for learning at home is crucial.

During lockdown in March when nearly every student was at home we set work over a period of one or two weeks. We then moved to delivering more recorded teaching with some live teaching, which students and parents told us was a good improvement. The challenge now is that we will have a mixture of students in and out of school, and this changes daily. Trying to set separate work for those at home could lead to students falling behind and we want all students to be able to keep up with the work in class. Our plan for this is to use Microsoft Teams a lot more to deliver learning to students who have to self-isolate which mirrors work in lessons and even gives students contact with lessons.

This is a new platform for our school and to use it well will require a good deal of training. Now that we know from Public Health that teaching in school and at home at the same time will be the 'new normal', I want to ensure that we can teach well to everyone. Therefore, I applied to Governors this weekend for an emergency **additional INSET day this Thursday 22nd October** and they have agreed to this. We already have an INSET day on Friday.

This means that half term will start a day earlier for students. I realise that this is short notice for families and therefore, if there are students who need to be supervised in school this Thursday, we can offer this. Students in school will do homework and other activities in their year group bubbles in school. If you require this support for your child, please email office@wgsnitney.org.uk by 3pm Tuesday 20th October giving the name and tutor group of your child and explaining that you would like him or her to be in school on Thursday. You do not need to email if you do not wish your child to be in on Thursday.

All external exams this week will continue as normal. 6th Formers who learn at Henry Box School will be contacted separately to explain arrangements.

After half term we will be teaching students to use Microsoft Teams. Having these two INSET days on Thursday and Friday will be hugely beneficial and I am grateful to Governors and all parents/carers for their support in giving us the time to adapt our teaching. This will benefit every student who needs to self-isolate, which could be anyone of us at any time if one of our family members at home develops symptoms.

We do have a high level of staff absence at the moment. Our aim is to keep school running as normal until Wednesday. We will inform families of course if this changes.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt,
Headteacher