



The Howard School



A Specialist Sports College
"To Strive and Achieve is to Succeed"

7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers and Students,

I know that this has been a very challenging week for students and their families. As a school, we want to support you and I hope this letter will answer many of the questions that you may have. In summary, the key areas covered in this letter are:

1. Information about exams being cancelled for Years 11 & 13 and what the next steps are.
2. The Howard School Sixth Form Information Events.
3. Examinations this year for students in Year 10 and 12.
4. Remote Learning, access to digital devices and Free School Meals.
5. Students collecting set texts and resources to support them with Remote Learning at home.
6. Virtual Parents' Evenings.
7. Student Wellbeing.

All students should now be following their school timetable remotely at home. Year 11 and 13 students should still be following their timetable and working hard. I will explain exactly why that is the case later in this letter. There is a new daily registration on Google Classroom, for all students, from Monday 11th January at 8.45am - 9am daily. The school will make welfare calls to all students once every few weeks and we will make contact and follow up where students do not engage with remote learning. Our expectation is that all our students will be working virtually. We obviously understand that some students may feel very stressed in this situation and know families face challenges and we are understanding of individual circumstances.

1. Examinations for students in Year 11 & 13

As you may be aware Gavin Williamson, The Secretary of State for Education, said yesterday that rather than examinations this year, students in years 11 & 13 will be given:

"a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently across the country."

We will need to provide evidence, as we did last year, in order to give students' grades. **Therefore, it is vitally important that year 11 and 13 students continue to follow their timetable and attend lessons remotely.** Students must keep working.

The DFE announced that BTEC exams do not need to continue in January and that this decision is at the discretion of the individual school. Therefore, given the disruption that students have encountered and because we do not want to disadvantage students, we have decided to withdraw students from year 11 & 13 January BTEC/ IMedia exams.

www.thehowardschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Ms C Reid

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Students will have the opportunity to complete internal mock exams safely at home, which will evidence the hard work that students have done.

We know that this is a really difficult time for students in year 11 and 13, and their families. We understand that government information keeps changing and that students have repeatedly been told examinations will go ahead, and now they are not.

However, all the work that students have done will support us with creating teacher assessed grades. Year 11 and 13 students need to keep doing work and creating the evidence needed to award them the grades they deserve.

2. Year 11 Sixth Form Information Event about The Howard School Sixth Form

There is a Sixth Form Virtual Information Evening for year 11 students & parents/ carers tonight at 7pm. There is another virtual information evening on the 20th January. It is important that year 11 students know they are secure in their next steps. At this event, there will be an opportunity to ask questions about The Howard School Sixth Form. We have additionally arranged for the KS5 Subject Leads to deliver presentations and take questions from students interested in taking that subject during CDW in the morning. This schedule has been shared with year 11 students in their Year Group Google Classroom.

This is the link for tonight's Sixth Form Virtual Information Evening:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjZhZmlyNDMtZWU2Mi00MGY1LWEwY2ItNWZmZmY5Y2Q1Yjky%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220ea88c86-af39-4526-a583-0f9f392244bc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221371f9e1-a5c4-47e7-8dfc-ca526522918a%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d

3. Examinations this year for students in Years 10 and 12

Students in both of these year groups were due to take examinations this year, but these examinations have now been cancelled. Last year schools were allowed to give teacher assessed grades to students in the same year groups in this situation. The government has not given guidance on this so far. It is vitally important that students in these year groups attend lessons in Google Classroom and continue to work hard.

4. Remote Learning, access to digital devices and Free School Meals.

From Tuesday 5th January, all year groups will be taught remotely following their normal school timetable on Google Classroom. All lessons will either be taught live or there will be pre-recorded material available to support students but the teacher will be in the Google Classroom.

Teachers will be available for the first 30 minutes of every lesson to support those students who have questions or need support **unless the staff are unwell.**

Students will have daily registration and a welfare check with their Form Tutor daily from Monday 11th January. We want to offer them some kind of routine and to support parents to get students up and ready for their school day. Students will need to be in the Google Classroom for 8.45am daily and registration ends at 9.00am. Lessons start at 9.10am so there is a 10 minute comfort break. This is an opportunity for Form tutors and Heads of Year to pass on any key messages and deal with any concerns. Please ensure your child is at registration daily.

Please contact Mrs Parish at parishj@thehowardschool.co.uk if your child is unable to access Google Classroom via an electronic device (a laptop/ computer/ Ipad/ mobile phone). We have some laptops provided by the DFE and a limited supply of internet dongles which provide free Wi-Fi.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you require a food parcel, please contact office@thehowardschool.co.uk. If you are currently self-isolating and therefore unable to collect the food parcel, please let office@thehowardschool.co.uk know and we will make arrangements to deliver the food parcel to your address.

From the 5th January, the school will continue to provide the children of critical workers and vulnerable students the option of being in school. We will place students in a computer room and they will be supervised to do the same high quality Remote Learning that students are doing at home. This group will become several bubbles and students will only be with the same students daily. If your child requires this provision and is eligible for it, please contact the relevant Head of Year so we can make arrangements for this.

Head of Year 7 - Mr Milton	miltonn@thehowardschool.co.uk
Head of Year 8 - Mr Murphy	murphyj@thehowardschool.co.uk
Head of Year 9 - Mr Longe	longen@thehowardschool.co.uk
Head of Year 10 - Ms Jaiyeoba	jaiyeoba@thehowardschool.co.uk
Head of Year 11 - Ms Ali	alim@thehowardschool.co.uk
Head of Sixth Form- Mr Loftus	loftuss@thehowardschool.co.uk

In addition to this, Year 7-9 students have their Knowledge Organisers for retrieval practice & revision.

Years 10-13 have additional learning platforms, like Seneca learning or Mathswatch, and teachers will make this provision clear to students via their Google Classroom stream. The school website also has Subject Reading Lists available.

[5. Students collecting set texts and resources to support them with Remote Learning at home](#)

We have organised a schedule for year groups to collect the materials that they require to be successful during this period of Remote Learning.

It is very important that students have these materials and resources. For example, year 9 & 10 students will be collecting the GCSE text for the GCSE Literature course and years 7-9 need to collect their Term 3&4 Knowledge Organisers. The timetable for students to collect is below, as well as information about how students will collect resources safely.

Please note that all year groups will be arriving by Form Group EXCEPT Year 9 who will be arriving by ENGLISH SETS and Year 11 who will be arriving by MATHS SETS

Please be advised that:

- **Students need to arrive via the Derwent Way gate**- the **A2 gate** will be **LOCKED**
- Students must wear face coverings at all times

- On arrival, students will be asked to: follow the one way system, line up and stand 2 metres apart on the playground behind the main hall. This will be supervised by members of staff
- Strict social distancing from both staff and students will need to be adhered to
- Students must not arrive together or congregate
- Students will need to bring a bag for the resources
- Students will be asked to sanitise their hands and enter the hall individually
- Students will collect the books, equipment or materials that they need
- A member of staff will log that they have been in to collect the materials
- Students will then be asked to sanitise their hands again as they leave on the opposite side of the hall
- Students should then go directly home via the Derwent Way gate

YEAR 9	Time & SET	English sets
Friday 8th Jan YEAR 9	1pm 9p1 1.15pm 9p2 1.30pm 9p3 1.45pm 9p4 2.00pm 9p5 2.15pm 9t1 2.30pm 9t2 2.45pm 9t3 3.00pm 9t4 3.15pm 9t5	BY ENGLISH SETS
YEAR 11	Time & SET	Maths sets
Monday 11th Jan YEAR 11	9am 11p1 9.30am 11p2 10.00am 11p3 10.30am 11p4 11.30am 11p5 12.00pm 11p6 12.30pm 11t1 1.30pm 11t2 2.00pm 11t3 2.30pm 11t4 3.00pm 11t5 3.30pm 11t6	BY MATHS SETS
SIXTH FORM	Time and Form	By Form Group

Tuesday 12th Jan SIXTH FORM	1pm 12a 1.15pm 12b 1.30pm 12c 1.45pm 12d 2.00pm 12e 2.30pm 13a 2.45pm 13b 3.00pm 13c 3.15pm 13d	
YEAR 10	Time and form	By Form Group
Wednesday 13th Jan YEAR 10	9am 10p1 9.30am 10p2 10.00am 10p3 10.30am 10p4 11.30am 10p5 12.00pm 10t1 1.00pm 10t2 1.30pm 10t3 2.00pm 10t4 2.30pm 10t5	
YEAR 8	Time & Form	By Form Group
Thursday 14th Jan YEAR 8	9.00 am 8H1 9.30am 8H2 10am 8H3 11am 8H4 11.30am 8O1 12.00pm 8O2 12.30pm 8O3 1.30pm 8W1 2.00pm 8W2 2.30pm 8W3	
YEAR 7	Time & Form	By Form Group
Friday 15th Jan YEAR 7	9.00am 7H1 9.30am 7H2 10.00am 7H3 11am 7H4 11.30am 7O1 12.00pm 7O2 12.30pm 7O3 1.30pm 7W1 2.00pm 7W2 2.30pm 7W3	

Please contact Miss Anglin anglinl@thehowardschool.co.uk if your child is self isolating and cannot collect their resources and we will make provision for this.

6. Virtual Parents' Evenings

We want to ensure parents are kept informed of progress and therefore we will be holding virtual parents' evenings on the following dates this term.

21st January Year 8

28th January Year 11

4th February Year 12 and Year 13

Parents' evenings for other year groups will happen on the pre-published dates that parents/carers already have.

Parents/carers will receive login details and information on how to access the Schoolcloud platform either via Arbor or an email in the week before the parents' evening.

Once logged in, you will be able to book your appointments between 3.30pm and 7pm.

There will be information and video links about how to use this platform.

Schoolcloud offers a safe and secure platform for teachers and parents to meet virtually and has an automated booking facility should you wish to use it.

7. Student Wellbeing

Please find a selection of resources below that may help to support our young people and families:

Supporting parents and carers video – the Anna Freud Centre

This video provides guidance to parents and carers about how they can support themselves and their children during any disruption caused by the coronavirus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnANLAcPRZ4&feature=youtu.be>

Self-care strategies – the Anna Freud Centre

A selection of self-care strategies that have been developed by young people to help manage their own wellbeing. During a time when access to regular appointments may be disrupted or anxiety might be heightened, it might be helpful to try one or some of these strategies.

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

Talking to your child about the coronavirus - YoungMinds

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>

Coronavirus and your wellbeing – Mind

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/#collapse842d2>

Mood journal – Childline

Students can sign up to Childline’s “locker” and track their daily mood in the mood journal. This might be a helpful way for children to balance their mood during a period of uncertainty.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/locker/#journal>

Calm zone – Childline

A toolbox of activities such as breathing exercises, coping videos, yoga videos and games that can help children feel calm in a period of disruption.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Tips for if you’re worried about the coronavirus - Newsround video

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51887051>

How to cope when you can’t go to school because of the coronavirus - Newsround video

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51656718>

My best wishes to you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Reid".

Ms C Reid
Executive Headteacher