

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we begin the half term holidays, I would like to thank you for your incredible support at this time. We are seeing more and more students learning online and working incredibly hard with their teachers, ensuring that they continue to learn and make good progress. I am incredibly proud of the staff making this happen and the students who have taken to this amazingly well. We understand how difficult home learning can be for both parents and students and the fact that so many students are attending lessons shows a huge commitment.

We are working hard to support those families who do not have the equipment to access lessons online. Unfortunately, there is a small shortfall in the number of devices available to us. Any student who cannot access learning for this reason is invited into school to ensure that they are also able to continue to learn. Learning Managers are in contact with families where there are concerns about online working to offer support and they can be contacted on the following email address: enquiries@danum.outwood.com

Learning Managers for each year group have recently changed and the member of staff phoning home may therefore have changed:

Year 7 Mrs Stanton

Year 8 Mrs McCardle

Year 9 Mrs Southgate

Year 10 Mrs Moore

Year 11 Mrs King

Post 16 Mrs Corkan

We know that this is a difficult time for many families and that young people can sometimes feel anxious or worried. Pastoral support is therefore important and online tutor groups will take place every Monday and Friday morning at 8.25am, before lesson one starts. This will be an opportunity to share important messages with students and for students to speak with their Form Tutor and other students in their tutor group.

Predicted Grades for Students in Exam Groups

For students in Year 10, 11 and 13, we are still awaiting the outcome of a DfE consultation looking at how grades will be assessed this year. There is a strong possibility of 'mini- tests' and teacher assessment from evidence collected in lessons and online, externally verified by exam boards. It is therefore incredibly important to attend all lessons and to submit work. The quality of the work produced is already being used to build up an evidence folder for each student.

Praising Stars Reports

Praising Stars reports have today been distributed to students via their Google Email addresses.

Parents' Evenings

COVID-19 operating procedures within academies will affect Parents' Evenings this academic year. The academy will organise virtual events and the details of how these will be shared with you. This may affect the frequency of events but it will still provide opportunity for important conversations with our teaching staff.

This year's Parents' Evening dates are:

- 9th March
- 20th April

Further information will be made available soon.

Praise for Students

We are currently praising students on Facebook and on Google Classroom as we cannot do this in school. Please take a look at our Proud Podium, Class above the rest, Seneca Superstars and more on our Facebook page, we have some wonderful work to celebrate! Hot chocolate with the Principal will be delivered home and carried out remotely.

Re-Opening

We know that the government has said that schools **may** be able to re-open on 8th March. When I have further information about this I will contact you again to update you on arrangements for a safe return to school. Until then, please stay safe, access all online learning and keep in touch with us if you have any concerns.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Gaunt

Principal