

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, on Monday evening the Prime Minister announced a new national lockdown. He also announced the closure of schools to all students except for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers.

For John O'Gaunt, this means we now move to our carefully planned remote education provision. Our aim is to ensure that we deliver high quality teaching and learning, regardless of the situation we find ourselves in. We feel that live teaching via TEAMS is the best way to do this, as far as this is possible. For those individuals where IT access is proving difficult for any reason, other plans are in place.

**Remote Education:**

Students will follow their normal timetable and for the majority of students, we will be offering live TEAMS lessons on a regular basis. We are adhering as closely as possible to our normal curriculum and ensuring that students are accessing new content, as well as retrieval and recall practice to reinforce prior learning. Student work will be assessed during the coming weeks and we will offer feedback in some way as far as practicable; this may include whole class feedback.

Students will need to accept teacher invites to relevant lessons (via TEAMS) and log in at the correct time, where a register will be taken. Where live lessons are not possible, PowerPoints and resources will be put on TEAMS and all lessons/resources will also be placed on Class Charts.

Some teachers may use a narrated PowerPoint or recorded video/audio clips to deliver some learning or parts of lessons. If we are aware that your child cannot access the internet, we will ensure suitable work is posted home. Please alert your child's Form Tutor (in the first instance) to any concerns you have about work being set, engagement with tasks and so on.

Staff will be working their usual school hours during this lockdown, but we kindly ask for your patience if you need to contact them, as most will be working from home and teaching for much of their day.

**Expectations for students when accessing remote education:**

I know that these were included in my previous letter, but I thought that it would be useful to remind you of our expectations. Therefore, all students:

- Must register, via TEAMS, with their tutor at 8:45 in the morning; tutors will send a meeting request to allow them to do this – it is important that we maintain this line of communication
- Where students cannot do this, please phone in to say they are ready to work. If we do not hear from you, we will be ringing you to check that your child has access to the work set and is engaging with learning
- Students should then check Class Charts for the work for each timetabled lesson, in the order they would have been taught the lessons. For some of these lessons this might mean they are told it is a live lesson in TEAMS. Where this is available, a meeting link will be sent to your child (via email and TEAMS)

- Where it is a live lesson, students should join the meeting with the camera and mic off. All lessons will be recorded (for safeguarding purposes) but the teacher may ask during the lesson for cameras to be turned on and mics to be turned on so we can check for understanding. If a student is not comfortable with this then we will, of course, be understanding
- We are expecting a good level of engagement with tasks and work can be submitted via TEAMS or Class Charts
- Students must be in a quiet and safe environment that is free from distractions. The use of a bedroom should be avoided wherever possible
- Students should be dressed appropriately for learning, for example no pyjamas or other clothing not suitable for a more public setting
- Students should be on time for the session and always give the activity full attention. Any link or password to these sessions should not be shared with anyone else
- Sessions will be recorded by the teacher and a link to the recording will be held on the school systems for future reference. However, as above, students are not allowed to record any part of a call or video session
- Students will leave the call or video-conference as soon as asked to by the teacher
- Students should follow teacher instructions about the submission of completed work, and the
- School will contact parents should work not be submitted or completed to a reasonable standard
- Teachers reserve the right to eject a student from any live TEAMS teaching if they feel that the student is being inappropriate in any way, including verbal comments made out loud, or inappropriate messaging in the chat function. Parents will also be informed

#### **Ways that you can support your child:**

- Ensure that you and your child have read and understood the **remote learning agreements** – these can be found here: <http://www.johnogauntschool.co.uk/223/remote-learning-and-work>
- Ensure your child has downloaded the Class Charts and TEAMS apps onto their device
- Ensure that your child checks Class Charts and TEAMS every day and work is completed
- Check on the work your child is accessing and that they are completing it to a good standard and in a timely fashion
- Communicate with us (Form Tutor in the first instance), if your child is at home, and cannot access the resources or if there is a barrier to them continuing learning at home
- Regularly check the COVID-19 tab on the JOG website: <http://www.johnogauntschool.co.uk/219/covid-19> where we are placing helpful tutorials on how to login, useful guidance and the Subject Remote Learning Contingency plans that teachers have put in place. There are some further useful materials on our website, which you can access here: <http://www.johnogauntschool.co.uk/222/useful-information-and-resources>

Your support is greatly appreciated and communication between home and school is going to be vital over the coming weeks. We have already lost a significant amount of learning time and these plans are designed to mitigate against any negative future impact to your child's education.

#### **Supporting your child if they have concerns:**

I am sure that there will be some understandable anxiety among our community about the latest lockdown. This is perfectly normal and, whilst we continue to keep watch on the welfare of our students remotely, there is a significant amount of help and support outside of school. The following websites may be a good place to start if you feel you or your child needs it:

- <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-teenagers-can-protect-their-mental-health-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- <https://www.youthaccess.org.uk/services/find-your-local-service>

- [https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/?WT.tsrc=Search&WT.mc\\_id=Corona&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIzfmlsrCH7gIVo4BQBh3s\\_gwgEAAAYASAAEgKMQfD\\_BwE](https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-anxiety-tips/?WT.tsrc=Search&WT.mc_id=Corona&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIzfmlsrCH7gIVo4BQBh3s_gwgEAAAYASAAEgKMQfD_BwE)
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

### **Year 11 examinations:**

In his announcement, the Prime Minister also stated that *“In these circumstances, we do not think it is possible or fair for all exams this summer to go ahead as planned. The Secretary of State for Education will therefore work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements after consultation with the sector.”* We are awaiting further information and guidance from the DfE about this and will communicate this to parents as soon as we know more. However, I feel it is right to state here that this does not necessarily mean that there will be no formal examinations or assessment. Therefore, **Year 11 students should continue to follow the normal curriculum and fully engage with all work as if exams will go ahead.**

### **Free School Meals:**

The Prime Minister committed to this support being available throughout lockdown. However, guidance has not yet been forthcoming about how this will be administered. We will of course write to affected families as soon as we have the relevant details.

### **Testing:**

The latest DfE guidance states that a testing programme should still be set up in school for staff and those students who are in attendance during lockdown. This may well then continue once all students return. However, as the timescale for the latter is unclear at present, we cannot confirm details at this stage.

At JOG, we are continuing with our preparations to set up and run these tests for the full range of scenarios. We will be communicating further with our community about this in due course, in addition to the letters sent out about permissions and data privacy yesterday. It would greatly assist us if you could continue to complete and return the consent forms if you have not already done so. If you feel you would be able to volunteer, please do get in touch with the school and we can add you to a communication list when we are ready to move forward.

I am sorry to have had to write another lengthy letter to you in such a short space of time since my last one. However, please be reassured that we are doing everything we can to offer the best possible provision for every child at JOG in the circumstances we all find ourselves.

Your ongoing patience and support is greatly appreciated and I hope you and your family stay safe and well in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr R Hawthorne**  
**Head of School**

