



Friday 16th October 2020

Dear parents/guardians

I hope that you and your family are well.

As we enter the final days of Term 1, I write to share some important information with you about public exams in 2021, curriculum adjustments and our plans for remote learning.

Public Examinations 2021

You will have seen in the media that the government has delayed public examinations for approximately three weeks:

“The main exam series will start on 7 June and end on 2 July. One maths and one English GCSE exam will take place before the May half-term, giving any Year 11 pupils who need to self-isolate during the exam period the best possible chance of still sitting a paper in each of these core subjects. Results days for AS/A levels and GCSEs will fall on Tuesday 24 August and Friday 27 August respectively, with students taking vocational and technical qualifications needed for progression to further or higher education receiving their results no later than their peers.” (DfE, October 2020)

You can read the full press release from the Department for Education [here](#).

Curriculum adjustments and examination preparation

Our subject leaders have adjusted the curriculum for all year groups in response to the period of school closure last academic year. During the course of this term, students have experienced plenty of low-key tests and assessments which are invaluable for teachers to identify gaps in knowledge and support lesson planning.

Additionally, we are implementing plans to ensure that Year 11 and 13 students are well prepared for their public examinations in the summer. This term our focus has been on support for Year 13 students to complete their Internal Assessments (IAs) for their IB courses. Our programme of carefully targeted interventions will continue throughout the school year.

Remote learning

As you may be aware, schools are required to have a remote learning plan in place so that any student who cannot attend school because of COVID-19 does not miss out on their learning. The information below sets out our plans for remote learning for students who have to self-isolate, or where local or national restrictions mean that students need to stay at home.

Specific plans may differ depending on the subject. Where this is the case, teachers will be in touch with more information.

- Where possible, work will be set according to the school timetable.
- All work will be accessed through the Google Classroom linked to students' school email addresses

- Lessons/mentoring time will be delivered in one of three ways:
 1. Through a Google Meet live stream (these will be recorded and posted on the Google Classroom for future reference)
 2. A pre-record lesson (posted on the Google Classroom at the timetabled lesson time)
 3. Detailed resources and activities or questions (posted on the Google Classroom at the timetabled lesson time)
- Students will receive a blend of individual and whole-class feedback
- If teachers are unwell, we will try to ensure that suitable work is set, but students may experience some disruption to their timetable

We will ensure that:

- Our programme is of equivalent length to the core teaching students would receive in school, and includes daily contact with teachers
- We set assignments so that students have work each day in a number of different subjects and we will monitor students' engagement with these assignments
- We teach a planned and sequenced curriculum
- We provide frequent explanations of new content, through carefully selected resources (e.g. reading materials or videos) or teacher explanations
- We gauge how well students are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks
- Teachers adjust the pace or difficulty of what's being taught in response to questions or assessments
- We avoid an over-reliance on long-term projects or internet research activities
- We provide printed resources, such as textbooks and workbooks, for students who don't have suitable online access

What you'll need at home

If your son/daughter will not have access to appropriate ICT at home, please contact Ms Rolls (rolls@danecourt.kent.sch.uk)

Students will need a full range of stationery at home and we recommend that they have a quiet place to work without interruption.

If your son/daughter does not have any of the above, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can help support you.

What we expect from your son/daughter

It's important that your son/daughter engages with home learning and keeps to their timetable. If they aren't engaging with the learning, we'll contact you. If your son/daughter is unwell, we will not expect them to engage with their timetabled lessons.

What you can do to help

We appreciate that if this situation arises, it may present some challenges for you. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time.

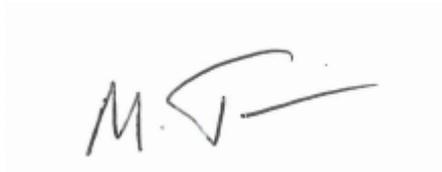
We do not expect you to watch your child all day, and we do not expect parents/carers to get involved in remote lessons. But, it would be helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what work they've done.

Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to their timetable
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life
- Encourage exercise to help keep your child active

Please keep in touch with us and do let us know if you're having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. You can contact your son/daughter's class teacher, Mentor, Year Leader or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jones', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Martin Jones
Headteacher