



Message from Mr Maltby

5th January 2021

Good afternoon,

Following yesterday's Government announcement I do want to clarify Holbrook Academy's response.

Our current priorities are maintaining a robust duty of care, including supporting children of key workers and those students who we have identified to be on school site at this time, alongside providing high quality remote learning.

In my message on 31st December, I explained that I would update parents/carers this week regarding how remote learning would develop from 11th January; following on from our intended preparations for mass Covid testing of both students and staff on school site. We are now in a situation where remote learning will be extended until the February half term for all year groups and Covid testing will be limited to the small number of students and staff who will continue to be on school site.

In planning remote learning, I understand the importance of including live learning. I can assure you that almost every lesson will include recorded video or audio and live interaction at the start. Every year group will also have one day each week which will primarily include live learning of the core subjects. These live lessons will help student's access subsequent lessons, present new ideas and challenge misconceptions.

There will be an expectation that students register live for every lesson and phone calls will be made in response to patterns of absences to check the reason for students missing lessons. Teachers will check student understanding of tasks at the start of almost every lesson and live lessons for each year group will differentiate into 'challenge' and 'support' where appropriate. You should expect the work to be set at a level appropriate to your child's ability and for your child's work to be marked routinely. It is important you hold the school to account for this provision and any concerns about remote learning can be sent to parents@holbrookacademy.org which will be monitored daily.

I will be providing additional information later this week about the whole school events that have been planned for this current half term and I will write to Year 11 students separately on Thursday about how we will be guiding and supporting them further at this crucial time. All of my most recent messages have been in response to the changing national situation and I do want to assure you that everyone at Holbrook Academy is very much looking forward to all students being back at school again as soon as that is possible.

Finally, these are challenging times for all of us at work and in our lives. I hope you can also appreciate that working from home does put a different pressure on our teaching staff. I intend to lead collaboratively; ensuring that we continue to raise standards whilst being sensitive to individual needs within our wider school community at this difficult time.

Kind regards,

Tom Maltby