

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year! I hope that however you were able to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, and you were all able to have a rest and enjoy the festive period. I wish you and your families all the best for 2021, and hope it is a much more normal year for us all.

Unfortunately, though it is starting with school once again closed to Year 10 for the next half term at least, and we again find ourselves in the situation of remote learning for the majority of our Year Group. I do understand the pressures that this places on you as parents and carers, and the concerns that you will have. Please be assured we are here to work with you, and together ensure that your children are still able to receive a good quality of education. Pupils timetables will run as normal from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, and the expectation is that they follow this, albeit remotely from home, accessing either live lessons with their teachers or work for the lesson via online platforms such as Showbie. Each teacher will communicate with their students what the expectations are, and will be available during the timetabled slot to answer questions and concerns to do with the work. If students are struggling to access the work due to technology, then please do make us aware so that we can help with this. It is important that students keep up with their work, and are encouraged to treat the days as normal as possible, following the school day timetable. This will help them as they return to school.

I am also aware that continued time away from school, and the worrying news about COVID will undoubtedly be having an effect on students (and families) mental health. Although school is closed, staff are still at work, and we are still here to try to support students and yourselves, so please do not hesitate to contact us if pupils are struggling. I have messaged all of Year 10 on our group Showbie about the expectations for work, and the support available, please do encourage them to check their messages, and I have copied it below for you own information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if needed via email [c.day@mce.hlt.academy](mailto:c.day@mce.hlt.academy)

Kind regards

Miss Day  
Senior Head of Year

Dear Year 10,

Happy New Year!

*I hope that you have all had a restful and wonderful two weeks off from school, and I hope that 2021 will bring normality back for us all. Unfortunately, though, as we all know, school is going to be closed for the majority of you for this half term. However, this does not mean that school stops! You are going to be expected to work remotely from home, and you will need to do the work set. Your days should be structured as if you were in school; so up and ready to start learning from 8:40 through to 3:30pm, with your break at 10:40-11:20 and lunch from 12:20 to 1:20. Your timetable will run as normal, and your teachers will either invite you to join live lessons, or let you have work to complete during that hour via Showbie etc. and you will be expected to submit completed work. Each teacher will communicate their expectations to you, so you must keep an eye on your school emails, and also Showbie.*

*I know that after time off it is difficult to get motivated to start work again, and doing so at home without your friends around, will make it even harder. However, it is really important that you do your work, and keep up to date with it all. In 18 months' time you will sit your GCSE's, and you will need this work for these exams. So, keep on top of it now, otherwise you will make it even harder for yourselves. Teachers are here to help, so, if you're struggling and don't understand the work, message or email them, and they will help you. We are still at work, and our job is to help you, but we don't know you're struggling unless you tell us. If you're having issues with technology, then you also need to let us know. Teachers will be keeping an eye on who is and isn't engaging in their work; I would much rather be calling your parents and carers to praise you for your efforts, than asking why you're not working and having to speak with you and them about why you're not working, and the extra work you will need to catch up on!*

*I know that school will be very quiet and lonely without you all in it, and I will be concerned about you all. It is natural at the moment to be worried about what is going on, and missing people that we can't see. If you are worried and struggling with what is going on, or just want a chat about things, then do message your form tutor or myself, and we will see what we can do to help you. I will pick up Showbie messages, or you can email me at [c.day@mce.hlt.academy](mailto:c.day@mce.hlt.academy)*

*Watching the news and hearing all the worrying statistics will be concerning, and remote learning is not how we would have liked to have started 2021. However, despite all the worry and concerns, there is also a lot to look forward to this year; next term we will look to appoint our Head Boy and Girl etc, we will start planning for Prom 2022 and your leavers book and hoodies, in September you begin your final year at Manor, and gain the luxury of the Year 11 balcony, and you will begin your career interviews to plan for your future. Make sure you give yourself the best possible chances of success by keeping on top of your work over the next half term, asking for*

*help if needed, and focusing on the positives to come. You are an amazing year group, and I continue to be proud to be your Head of Year, you can do this!*