

Dear Parent/Carer,

I just wanted to let you know how impressed I have been with Year 7 during their first week of remote learning. It is great to get feedback from staff that the vast majority of our Year Group have been logging in to their live lessons, engaging well and working hard. It is important that students continue to do this. Hopefully by joining live lessons, they are not only benefiting from interaction with their subject teachers, but also feeling they are together with their peers and therefore home schooling is not as isolating as it potentially could be. If for any reason your child has not been logging on, or they are struggling with being able to, then please do let me know, we are here to support and help, however we will be chasing up non-attendance in the coming weeks.

However, my Year Groups wellbeing and how they are coping during these difficult times, is equally, if not more important to me as their Head of Year. Lockdown is a worrying time for us all. Therefore, I've put in place a few pastoral based activities during this half term, to be able to engage with them, and check-in on how they are. On the week beginning the 25th January every form will be having a form time, just like they would if they were in school, but this time remotely. Form Tutors will send out the date and time to their forms via their Showbie group and/or school emails. It will be a nice opportunity for the form to come together and their Tutor to speak with them. As well as that, look out a week later (the week beginning 1st Feb) for an assembly video, featuring me and hopefully some other members of staff. I will also be endeavouring over the course of this half term to call each parent and student for a quick chat to see how you and your child are. So, I look forward to hopefully speaking with you all soon.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you. I realise how difficult home schooling will be for you, and the various pressures you will be under. The engagement of our students is only possible with your support and encouragement, so it is appreciated!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you do have any concerns or questions. I can be contacted at m.willoughby@mce.hlt.academy

Kind regards,