



12 February 2021

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers

On this last day of half-term, I would like to thank you for your incredible support during the third lockdown period. Without doubt, our remote learning provision has developed considerably over the last 11 months and now a record number of lessons are being streamed live into your homes. We know this can present families with logistical problems but your support has ensured our students continue to access our ambitious curriculum.

Much has been said in the media recently of the need for dramatic catch-up plans for children. Unfortunately, less has been said about the resilience and maturity demonstrated by children, along with the development of new skills in learning, that will actually provide them with significant advantages over past generations. We are incredibly proud of our students for the manner they have engaged with remote learning. As well as providing fantastic electronic-based work, they have remained creative and demonstrated learning on paper and in some cases practical work.

We have recently conducted our first ever online Parents' Evenings. They have been a resounding hit with both families and teachers; as the year progresses we will seek your feedback on their possible use in a 'pandemic-free' year. However, all Parents' Evenings will be online for the remainder of this academic year.

As things stand, we expect students to return to school no earlier than Monday 8 March. In preparation for this return, and if you have not done so already, you can still provide consent for your child to be tested for COVID-19 using this link:

www.toothillschool.co.uk/consent

Children will only be tested twice on return to school and we no longer conduct serial contact testing for those students identified as close contacts of a positively-tested person. We will provide more details on mass testing when the government has confirmed the return date for students.

Finally, our students definitely deserve a reduction in screen time over the half-term break. I hope you spend some quality time together and we look forward to welcoming you and your child/children back into school in the very near future.

Yours sincerely

Dr C Eardley
Head of School

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