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Dear Parents/Carers,

As this term draws to a close, I wanted to thank you again for your support and feedback with remote learning. We have received nearly 500 responses to our parent survey, and it is pleasing to hear the positive feedback in relation to our online provision, pupil workload and challenge with remote learning.

Please remember to access our academy website (click here for link) to find further information and support. Within this dedicated remote learning page, you will find additional links to online resources and materials to further enhance your son/daughters' learning at home.

In response to feedback that many students have not been able to engage with all lessons this term, perhaps due to issues with technology, we have allocated Thursday and Friday as 'Keep up/Go Green days'.

- Tutor time will be live both mornings, but all other live lessons will be suspended for Y9-13
- In year 7&8, English and Art lessons will still be live
- Year 11 GCSE Statistics Group will need to attend workshop 2 at 9am on Friday 12th

Students will be sent reminders of previous assignments and work to complete, or feedback to respond to. They may choose to spend more time on a particular subject to complete key pieces of work, rather than follow the timetable, but they should still be working. Teachers will be available to respond to queries during the two days, but some will be on site preparing for the return of students next term, so responses may not be immediate.

Next term Y10 are due to start the study of Macbeth, the key text for GCSE English Literature. In preparation for this they will be sent a link to watch an adapted version of the play which we hope will help their understanding, in addition they have all been sent a copy of the text for annotation and an exercise book in the post, this should arrive in the next couple of days.

Whilst we do not have the details of when students will return, we hope to welcome some learners back next term. The Government guidance remains clear that we should test students twice (3-5 days apart) using the lateral flow devices, prior to returning to site, and therefore the consent form will be sent to you shortly. We have been successfully testing staff and students in our on-site provision now for the last few weeks and this has enabled us to ensure students and staff have not been exposed to asymptomatic cases.

This week we will celebrate student success and engagement in assemblies for all years. I am incredibly impressed with the effort, kindness and creativity shown by our students. The snow pictures and examples of work can be seen on our Website

We will not set homework over the half term as students need to take a break, however they should be encouraged to read and exercise where possible as both activities are good for the body and mind and I shall be recommending the same to staff. We are not yet at the end of this lockdown, but the end is hopefully in sight and we cannot wait to welcome your sons/daughters back when it is safe to do so. Until then, stay safe and well.

Kathryn Murphy Acting Principal