

5 January 2021

Dear Families,

I would usually start my letter to you at this time of year by wishing you all a Happy New Year after having a relaxing break over Christmas with family and friends. However, I know that is far from the reality that many of us experienced and, like me, many of you will have listened to last night's Prime Minister's briefing with a heavy heart.

Boris Johnson confirmed that schools should immediately move to online learning whilst remaining partially open for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. This will be up until the February half term at least. He also stated that the examinations that were due to be sat by Year 11 and Year 13 in the Summer term will no longer take place.

Whilst this leaves us all with a number of challenges and questions, we must remember that we have come a long way since the first lockdown and all of the staff at The Misbourne are committed to ensuring that your child's education and wellbeing remain our top priority.

Starting today, students in all year groups will have already begun to receive their full timetable of lessons via Microsoft Teams. With the exception of instances where staff are unwell, students will be expected to connect at 8.40am for the registration period, which will include weekly online assemblies, and for each of their lessons throughout the day. We will send out updated guidance and expectations for remote learning shortly.

If at any point a student has difficulty accessing their learning, please contact your child's school base via email as soon as possible so that we can provide support. The email addresses for each school base are:

Attenborough: Attenboroughschool@themisbourne.co.uk

Franklin: Franklinschool@themisbourne.co.uk

Holmes: Holmesschool@themisbourne.co.uk

Turing: Turingschool@themisbourne.co.uk

Having said all of that, I will need to ask you to bear with staff over the first few days as they have had very little (no) time to prepare for a six-week period of remote learning. It will take a little time to consider any adjustments needed to schemes of learning, assessments and lesson planning. There will also, no doubt, be the inevitable glitches but we have a great team that is already working really hard to ensure students receive uninterrupted learning.

The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:

"A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does"

Ofsted



Pastoral support and follow-up with students not fully engaging in their lessons will happen as before. This will be further strengthened from the Summer, as each day will begin with a check-in with their form tutor. Our school counsellor will also be continuing with the important work she has begun in supporting students since the start of the year.

If you have any pastoral concerns for your child whilst they are away from school, please do not hesitate to contact their school base as soon as possible, again via the email addresses above.

Collection of exercise books and art/DT work:

In order to support students' organisation of their work, we would like to give them the opportunity to collect any books/work they might have at school, so that they can work in them at home. This will not be for all of their subjects and teachers will let students know if they need to come in and collect their books. Students will be able to attend site for this reason alone, on **Monday 11 January from 9.00am-3.00pm**. They should enter the school and queue up outside the sports hall, maintaining a social distance of 2m and wearing their face covering.

Year 11 and Year 13:

I imagine that you have more questions than others about what happens next, particularly in terms of your examinations and your progression to whatever comes next for you in September. We have those same questions, as we only have the same information as you currently, but we will do all that we can to find out the answers we all need and support you every step of the way.

As soon as we know more, we will communicate this with you. In the meantime, the most important thing to remember is that your learning must continue. By engaging in all of your lessons and assessments, you have the best opportunity for the success you deserve this year. PPE exams will be postponed until a time that we know we can conduct them in a fair and supervised manner.

Covid-19 Testing Support:

I would like to thank those members of our community who have already volunteered to assist with our testing for asymptomatic staff/students on-site. We are very grateful for your support and will be writing to you soon with further guidance and next steps. Whilst we are no longer facing the prospect of conducting mass testing by the end of this week, we will be putting in place provision to test all of the staff and students (children of critical workers and vulnerable children) periodically whilst they are on site over the course of this half term.

I would like to conclude by once again thanking you for your continued support and understanding during this unprecedented time. We are faced with a challenging set of circumstances that we are all trying to navigate and do our very best. There will inevitably be more bumps in the road that we will have to overcome, so now more than ever, communication, teamwork and kindness will be the guiding principles to help us all get through.

Yours faithfully,



Jo Meloni
Headteacher

