



18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: National Lockdown Week 2 Update**

Firstly, I ask that you continue to join our staff and students in prayer for the Year 11 member of our St James' family who has been severely injured in a road accident over the Christmas period. A reminder that if your child feels that they need any support in dealing with the ongoing consequences of this tragic situation then please do not hesitate to contact either their Form Tutor or Pastoral Manager.

As we move through this third national lockdown, I will update you each week with key pieces of information. A reminder that all updates surrounding Coronavirus and our approach at school are regularly updated here: <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/coronavirus-information2021/>

I cannot believe that we have only been back for just over a week, so much has happened and taken place during this time. Our live Zoom lessons have continued following our normal school day and pupils have benefited from some time with their form at the start of each day. A reminder that if your child has any difficulties, for instance accessing lessons or resources please email the individual teachers, all email addresses are available on our website.

Our Year 9 Parents' Evening has taken place and a big thank you to parents for the fantastic attendance at this virtual event. The feedback received was once again extremely positive and as always is shared here: <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/parental-voice/>. The Year 9 feedback should be available at this link towards the end of this week.

Our lateral flow testing facility is ready to test those students and staff who are currently in school. The first tests of children will take place on Tuesday and Friday of this week. When we return to school, more information will be sent out so that all students can access this testing provision if you consent as a parent/carers.

The biggest questions in education at the moment are surrounding the Year 11 examinations and what the grading will look like. Currently there are no answers, only questions and suggestions. Dr Guscott has provided an update on the curriculum for all year groups but a particular focus of his half termly update is around what we know so far about the Year 11 exams. A link can be found here: <http://www.stjamesheadle.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Year-11-Update.pdf>. I would also like to draw your attention to the Ofqual and Department for Education consultation on how GCSE grades should be awarded in summer 2021. You are able to respond directly online and the link is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

As always thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch [headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex  
Headteacher