

GJB/jr  
27 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you are all well and managing as best you can during this third national lockdown. We have now reached the halfway point of this half term and I wanted to write with a few updates from school. The moving of schools online once again creates a number of challenges for every family and we are very aware that for Year 7 students this is the first time your children will be experiencing Wildern's online learning. I want to start by taking the opportunity to thank you for all of your messages of support and all of the effort you, and your family, are putting in to make this time as successful as possible under the circumstances.

Communication between school, home and students has never been more important. The tutor team have been doing a fantastic job of contacting you all and offering live 'touch base' sessions with students to check in. Remember that if you have any questions or concerns we remain contactable so please do drop your child's tutor a message if you need to. Our team are supporting students, teaching and managing their own families at home, however, we will do our best to reply to you as soon as we can. Mr Clissold and myself are still working in a pastoral capacity so if you have any broader questions please feel free to contact us as well. It is worth bearing in mind that if you request a call Wildern staff will be calling from withheld numbers, and it will not necessarily be a simple case of calling us back if you miss a call.

Year 7 have made a great start to their work this term and it has been a pleasure to receive all of the positive feedback off of my colleagues relating to Year 7's effort, resilience and engagement. It is important that Year 7 keep on working hard as they are doing a great job. If students have any work related questions, or need some help, they can contact their class teachers on google classroom. It is also worth remembering that we are only expecting students to spend one hour per lesson, and students can comment on Google classroom if they have reached an hour and not finished tasks. Students can then go back to these activities if they find they finish a lesson with time to spare later in the week.

In addition to school work we have launched a 'Lockdown Badge' to compliment the pledges which students work towards as part of their normal tutor time programme. This is designed to help you motivate students whilst at home and support you at this time. Students can earn their badges by simply helping with dinner, doing some laundry, keeping the house tidy and in many other ways. There has been great feedback on this so far so do keep an eye out for further emails from Miss Applegate who is coordinating this. In addition to this I encourage students to send their tutors a 'wish you were here' style postcard if they have a spare moment and fancy being creative. These can be digital or physical and their tutor will reply with a postcard of their own.

Finally, we know how important monitoring well-being is at this time. Although our normal support we offer in school cannot take place at present, our pastoral team has lots of advice and can signpost to outside agencies who are offering a range of support for a broad spectrum of issues

our young people may be facing. Please do get in touch or look at the pastoral pages of our website for more information.

Thank you once again for your support and please do not hesitate to contact us in school should you have any questions or comments.

Kind regards

Mr G Bateman  
Director of Progress and Achievement - Year 7