

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mr I Bacon

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now completed the second week of Remote Learning and everyone involved deserves a massive well done for all your efforts – students, parents, and staff.

I'd like to share with you two important events that are happening over the next week and ask for your support with both.

### **Parent and Student Survey regarding Remote Learning**

Firstly, feedback. Many of you have been kind enough to let us know your views about how the Remote Learning provision has been working and also some have suggested improvements – which is great. From our point of view, we are trying to do our best but aren't the ones sat at kitchen tables, in the lounge or next to our children in their bedrooms as they try to navigate their way through Teams and live lessons.

We would like to invite every family to feedback to us through a short survey which will help us have a more detailed understanding of what is going well, what the obstacles are and anything we could do to improve the provision.

The link is below, and the survey will close at 10pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

<http://bit.ly/3qkIGGI>

If you can find the time, then it would be great if parents and carers could sit with their child and complete the survey together.

Thank you for your help with this.

### **Off-Screen Day – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Given my comments above we think that given the pressures on everyone it is in the interests of the wellbeing of students, parents, and teachers that we build in some 'off-screen' time.

Sitting in front of an electronic device may be an efficient medium for remote learning but it can cause stress, poor posture, difficulty sleeping, headaches etc. In the light of this we have planned an 'Off-Screen Day' on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

On that day we would like to give students, parents, and teachers the opportunity to get away from the clutches of an electronic device and do something different. We are suggesting a number of different activities that are not specifically linked to any subject but that may help develop some of the other key skills that are part of our ethos at Watling – Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and also the LORIC skills of leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative, and communication.

**Respect / Responsibility / Kindness**

Tutors will want to discuss with students what they have done/learned, and the thread will also be picked up in the next Well-Being lesson by Mr Gibbs, so students should make a brief diary of the things they have done and what they have learned from it.

Please feel free to discuss the activities with your child and pick all, some or come up with alternatives that work better in your own household. Either way we would encourage a break from electronic devices during the duration of the Academy day – 8:45am to 3:15pm.

Possible activities for Off-Screen day:-

- Look out of your window. Draw or write a story, poem, or song about what you can see.
- Plan and cook lunch for members of your household – and clear up afterwards!
- Go for a walk and make a note of anything you see that is potentially harmful to the environment or is designed to be environmentally friendly.
- Play some music if you have an instrument – or use some household objects to experiment.
- Play a board game with members of your household.
- Tidy your bedroom!
- Do household chores like hoovering, cleaning, dusting, ironing.
- Write a letter or card to a family member or friend who is on their own; post it in the post-box if you have a stamp.
- Research (in advance of Thursday!!) the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and contribute to that national event during the day – in your garden or local park.
- Make a collage using newspapers, scrap paper, old magazines about your hopes and dreams for 2021 and how you could contribute to things in your local community.
- Read a book.
- Plant some seeds or bulbs in your garden and do a general tidy up of the garden.
- Devise a new training schedule for your favourite sport.
- Anything else you can think of that does not involve a screen or electronic device!

I do hope that you will understand and support this idea and that it can be of benefit for everyone at home, lifting a little stress and giving everyone the chance to have a different sort of day. The plan is to hold another 'Off-Screen' day later this half term.

The teachers will not be available online or on email at any point during the day although you can still email [admin@watling.academy](mailto:admin@watling.academy) or phone us on 01908 794094.

Please note – keyworker provision will still go ahead on-site as normal on that day; all activities will be away from screens and computers.

Finally, as always, if there is anything that you are concerned or worried about or any questions you may have then please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to support you, even from a distance.

Yours faithfully,



Mr I Bacon  
Head of School