



“Success For All”

NETHERHALL LEARNING CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL

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5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It is with a heavy heart that I, again, write to you following the announcement made by the Prime Minister yesterday evening. Netherhall Learning Campus High School will be closed from Tuesday 5th January 2020 until further notice, and will not reopen on 18th January as previously stated. The spread of the new variant of COVID-19 has led to rapidly escalating case numbers across the country. Accordingly, the government has made the decision to close schools to the vast majority of students.

Key-Worker and Vulnerable Students:

The school will continue to provide on-site education for the children of critical workers who have no alternative but to send their children into school, and those children requiring additional support. Please note that these students will be supervised to engage in the same Remote Learning lessons that other students will be accessing from home.

All work will be set by their teachers, but they will not be taught in person by their usual class teachers in school. Students will be taught in a set ICT classroom and must adhere to the current Covid-19 risk assessment and follow school rules on uniform, behaviour, attendance and punctuality.

If you previously completed or not the Microsoft form for attending school during the start of term, I would ask that you discuss the changed provision with your child and complete the new form in order to reserve a place for your child in school. Please ensure that you complete this form by Thursday 7th January 2021 at 13:00. We will send the new form out for your convenience later today.

It is very important to reiterate that children who do not fall into the above groups should remain at home until further notice.

Free School Meals:

For families who are in receipt of free school meals, our current understanding is that the government intention is to continue to support all students who are at home and are eligible for free school meals through the voucher scheme that ran during the last lockdown.

Unfortunately, we are waiting for further government guidance on the support that they are offering and will update you as soon as we have it.

Online Learning from 11th January:

Teachers will deliver a combination of live lessons, video lessons and set independent work on Microsoft Teams for their classes. Students should check their emails and 365, and be ready to start lessons at the usual time. Where teachers are ill or teaching in school, independent work will be set on that day. Please be aware that some staff may have their own children to care for at home as well as teaching or supporting online, as indeed, many parents will be working from home whilst supporting their children's education.

A reminder of our remote learning code of conduct:

- All students should ensure they are on time for their 'Live' remote lesson to ensure that it can start promptly and follow their existing timetable.
- They must ensure that their camera is turned off at all times unless directed by a member of staff.
- They should ensure they are dressed appropriately for learning.
- They should interact with their classmates and teachers as directed and do so appropriately.
- They should ensure they are working from an environment that is quiet and free from distractions.
- Students should never record any interactions during remote learning.
- They should continue to follow the school code of conduct in line with their on-site learning.

Live lessons can be accessed via mobile phones, tablets and computers. If you require an appropriate device, please contact school as a matter of urgency.

We ask parents to support the school by ensuring that all students participate in their remote learning. Students have already missed a significant amount of on-site education and complete engagement is the only way we can mitigate any further learning deficits.

Summer Exams 2021:

The announcement yesterday did not cancel exams in their entirety but stated instead 'that they would not go ahead as normal'. At present, we are awaiting further direction on how students are going to be assessed and we will update you as soon as we have this information. The best course of action, that all our students can take at the moment, is to complete their remote learning with support from their subject teachers and let us know if they need additional help. I am confident that with the completion of set work and our systems in school, student GCSE accreditation will be as accurate and as fair as possible. Please reassure your child that we will work tirelessly to make sure that they leave with the grade that they deserve.

Safeguarding

Alongside the 'live' lesson contact and the submission and subsequent marking of work, each week your child will be invited to one 'live' tutor time lesson where they can receive pastoral support and care as well as the opportunity to raise any issues that haven't already been addressed.

On top of the 'live' tutor time lesson I would encourage students to submit work and questions direct to subject teachers where 'live' lessons are not applicable.

As a parent I would encourage you to contact your child's Head of Year with any concerns that you may have. They will be able to pass on these questions and/or concerns to other staff and ask the right person to make contact with either you or your child.

During these times, communication is vital. We will do our best to keep you informed as parents and carers as much as we can. This will always be through text message alerts, sometimes with links to letters and information. Likewise, it is important that you contact us if you need us. The best way to do this is via email to the relevant staff who will be monitoring emails daily.

I would just like to ask our community to be mindful that our staff also have challenges in their own lives with childcare, dependents and their own health. As always I ask for your empathy and patience during this time.

Equally, please don't struggle at home or allow your child to feel isolated. As a parent, I am fully aware of how these quick changes in routine, fear of missing friendships and anxiety of working alone can affect our children. Even those who seem, on the face of it, to be highly functioning, are often affected by this chopping and changing of life. Please know that you are not on your own, that we are at the end of a phone call or an email and there is always something that we can do to help.

I will continue to stay in touch with as much information as I have, as timely as I can.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding, and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Kent', written in a cursive style.

Michael Kent
Principal
Netherhall Learning Campus