



Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a National lockdown yesterday, it has now been confirmed that students will be learning remotely this half term wherever possible, with in-school provision being made available only for vulnerable students or students of key workers.

Remote Learning

Students should log into Microsoft Teams for registration at 8.55 each day and at the start of each of their normal lesson times. There will be a mixture of live lessons, narrated powerpoints, tasks which require IT and those which are paper based or practical. Students can use the chat function to interact with their teachers and classmates, they will be submitting work via assignments and receiving feedback via Teams or OneNote.

If students require an additional IT device in order to access the remote learning, please contact the school as soon as possible via enquires@suttcold.bham.sch.uk. The parents' weekly bulletin will continue to be emailed to all parents/carers every Friday afternoon during term time. If you do not receive this, please contact us using the enquiry email address above. This will be monitored during normal school hours (8.40m-3.40pm Monday to Friday). We hope to respond to any emails by the end of the next school day, but please note that this may not always be possible.

We are setting up a collection process for exercise books, and details will be shared in the bulletin on Friday.

GCSE and A-level examinations

We were surprised by the Government announcement yesterday and do not yet have any information about how GCSE and A-Level students will have their grades awarded. We will share any updates as soon as we receive them.

We are researching a software package that would enable us to set Year 13 students online assessments in place of their mock examinations in the week beginning 11th January. Information will be communicated with Year 13 students via Teams and their parents via email as soon as we have concluded our research. Following these assessments, lessons will be delivered via Teams and will follow the normal timetable.

Year 11 students will receive their mock exam results next week and will have feedback about their mocks during online lessons. We will arrange to send out marked mock papers to students by post over the next few weeks. Year 11 reports will then be issued which will include both mock and forecast GCSE grades.

Year 12 Progress evening

This event will be going ahead next Tuesday, 12 January, as an online event. Information has been emailed this afternoon and appointments can be booked from 7pm this evening.

Headteacher: Dr Barbara Minards

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5PT

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Pastoral Support

All students will have a daily check-in with their form tutors; there will be activities that focus on Character Development and wellbeing as part of the tutor programme. A weekly assembly will be created to be viewed by students on Wednesday mornings. If you have any questions or concerns about your daughter's wellbeing, please contact the relevant Head of Year via email in the first instance.

In-school supervision

The school remains open to provide supervision for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. The details of students who can access school for this provision can be found in the link below.

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

Please follow these key principles:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home during the lockdown, then they should be.
- Parents/carers should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that could continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Students who come to school for supervision should arrive via the hub entrance and wait at the chairs which are set out 2 meters apart. Students do not need to wear school uniform, they will be provided with a laptop and they should bring their usual resources along with a water bottle and packed lunch if possible.

Student safeguarding information

Outside of school hours, staff and school emails will not be accessed regularly. If you are a student or parent in need of safeguarding support, then please refer to the helpline numbers on the inside cover of the student journal. Childline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (calls are not recorded and your number won't show up on any phone bills). Call 0800 1111 or visit www.childline.org.uk.

If you or someone you know is at **immediate risk of harm**, please call the Police.

Lateral Flow Testing

We are waiting for information about the testing process that schools were asked to set up this week and would like to thank all those who volunteered to help us set up and carry out the testing. Once we have further details we will be in touch with all those who offered to help.

Thank you for your continued support of the School during these ongoing challenging times. We will keep you updated with any information about the School, the GCSEs and A-levels as it becomes available throughout the period of closure.

Yours faithfully,

Dr B. Minards
Headteacher

Mrs C. Senior
Chair of Governing Board

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