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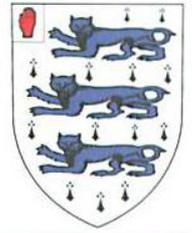
THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

ADAMS COLLEGE SIXTH FORM CENTRE ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: Gavin Sterry BSc (Hons) MA



Dear Parent/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and are managing to cope with the current lockdown.

Please find below a collection of school updates and some new information that may require you to respond as a parent/carer.

On-site provision

On-site provision is available for critical workers/more vulnerable children. Currently we have around 75 students attending daily. Whilst we can cope with the numbers of children coming into school, and we are happy to be of assistance, please be aware that the government guidance has recently changed to:

*Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers **should** keep their children at home if they can.*

This guidance is probably a response to the larger numbers of children accessing the provision, as well as the fact that the new variant of Covid is more transmissible. We are happy for parents to consider only sending their children into school for certain days of the week, based around their own work commitments, rather than for the whole week.

May we remind children to continue to bring all the necessary equipment in to school including face coverings and headphones.

Parents in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)

We have previously been providing a food parcel which we have delivered on a Wednesday. From the week beginning 25th January 2021, we will be using the Government Voucher Scheme which will be emailed to parents/carers who can then choose which supermarket to use. If you are not sure about anything to do with this process, please contact Mrs Howells on enquiries@thomasadams.net

Remote Learning

Thank you for your continued support and constructive feedback on our remote learning provision. We are mindful of the health and well-being of our students and their ability to manage the work set. With this in mind, we are looking to evolve our remote learning provision by:

- continuing to follow the lesson timetable issued in the previous letter, with staff keeping to the first 50 minutes of each lesson for delivery. This will allow for brief breaks between lessons in addition to the normal breaks at (11.10-11.30) and (13.30-14.20).
- persisting with live Interactive lessons, with staff sharing links to join lessons via the Microsoft Teams calendar or specific subject Teams pages. By being "live", staff have been able to perform several services including welfare checks, explaining tasks set, offer a variety of learning opportunities, provide instant feedback and guidance and, most importantly, be there for your child to support them with their education.
- helping to manage the workload for students, no home learning / additional work outside of the lesson (except for those students in the school 6th form who may be set independent study work) will be set for the next three weeks, leading up to half-term. This will allow staff and students to focus on the Live Interactive Lessons, with work revisited and built upon during the lessons timetabled.

These developments will continue to allow your child(ren) to have a routine, effectively manage their schoolwork and provide opportunities to take time away from the screen.



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If your child is not able to attend the live interactive lessons, please contact the school by emailing attendance@thomasadams.net We are aware that some students have genuine reasons for not being able to complete the work during the regular timetabled sessions. We want to continue to work with you to ensure there is flexibility to complete the learning at a time that is possible.

If you have any issues with the remote learning provision, please contact your child's HOY via email or Mr McAleavy (tm@thomasadams.net).

YEAR	CONTACT DETAILS
Year 7	Miss Holland: reh@thomasadams.net
Year 8	Dr James: sej@thomasadams.net
Year 9	Miss Darrell: axd@thomasadams.net
Year 10	Ms Lester: hlester@thomasadams.net
Year 11	Miss Devismes: amd@thomasadams.net
Year 12 and 13	Mrs Squire: jes@thomasadams.net / Mr Allen: lja@thomasadams.net

If you are experiencing any technical issues (loss of password, access to Teams etc.), please email our IT Team at ict.helpdesk@thomasadams.net For issues regarding access to digital devices, please email Mr McAleavy (using the email stated above).

Feedback Questionnaires

We value your feedback and input and have created a parental and student questionnaire for completion. We will be continually monitoring this link for the next 2 weeks. As we look to develop our provision and meet the needs of all our stakeholders, we would really appreciate you taking some time to complete the feedback forms. Please follow the links below:

Student: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oDL_xXj4hk2PzRkxwvqsaJs0Vx7l8bRAp_p04oWMWhtUN1AwMTc2UjVCSE9ERFFPvdUTjQ0VkywWi4u

Parent: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oDL_xXj4hk2PzRkxwvqsaJs0Vx7l8bRAp_p04oWMWhtUMFpNRU1NV1I0VUEzNDFUTTVDHRDVBQIRFV4u

Year 9 Options

The Year 9 Options process is due to begin shortly. This is the process by which students select their subjects from those on offer for study during Key Stage 4. Students and parents will have the opportunity to view a virtual information presentation explaining the process and this will be supported by an electronic version of the Options Booklet and the selection form. If you then have questions about this process you can contact Mr Ashley at ma@thomasadams.net This is an important set of decisions for your child, and we will be supporting them through the process, regardless of on-site or virtual working.

Year 11 & Year 13 exams

Year 11 and 13 students should continue to engage in remote learning and continue to perform as well as they possibly can in all aspects of their courses. This will give their teachers the very best evidence of how they can perform in their chosen subjects and will support the teacher assessed grades that we know will form the basis of the GCSE, A Level and BTEC results again this year. The Government have now entered into a period of consultation with Ofqual concerning arrangements: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>.

This consultation closes on the 29th of January and parents/carers are encouraged to contribute (please follow the link above).

Obviously, as soon as we have any further information we will be in touch. Please do not make contact with your child's teachers to discuss either this process, or your child's past, current or future grades, as we are still not clear of exactly how these will be determined. Teachers will, of course, be happy to give feedback concerning areas for improvement and development in their subjects.

Many thanks for your continued support and trust during these difficult times. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mark Cooper
Headteacher