



3rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure you are looking forward to a break over half term. I can confirm that the school will be closing to all pupils, as normal, for the half term break from Monday, 15th February. School will re-open for those who are attending our on-site small school provision from Monday, 22nd February, this is also the date that we will resume our delivery of remote lessons for those remaining at home.

I hope you and your children will be able to take advantage of a break from remote lessons and looking at screens by getting outside in the fresh air for a walk or a bike ride which can do wonders to support and promote well-being. Please make the most of this time to enjoy being with each other; do your favourite or new things and give a smile or moment to cheer someone up.

We have continued to receive regular, positive emails and feedback from both parents and students about the wonderful work our staff are doing. Everyone is playing their part, whether teaching remotely, supporting vulnerable children and the children of key workers, providing essential admin support, working in the testing centre or clearing snow! It is a phenomenal team effort: I know some of you are juggling your own work commitments whilst your children are also at home, but we are delighted that this has been a different opportunity for so many of you to be involved in your children's learning. We are truly all in this together.

You will probably already be aware that the Government has set the date of the 8th March for a possible return to school. We do not yet know what this may look like and this will be dependant on the rate of hospital admissions and local rates of infection. We are, of course, desperate to resume our normal provision as soon as we can, and I assure you that we will respond quickly, communicate with you and plan for the pupils to return as soon as we have any announcements.

We are very aware that we will need to provide support and reassurance, particularly to students who were due to take their examinations this year. The joint Ofqual and DfE consultation on possible arrangements for the awarding of qualifications in 2021 closed on Friday 29th January. As soon as the outcome to the consultation and any firm details are released, we will act quickly to plan and advise you. Until then, it is still essential that all students continue to engage fully in their learning, teachers are working hard to ensure our students are well prepared for any scenario and you will be well supported every step of the way.

Finally, it was very saddening to read yesterday of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore who did so much to lift our spirits during the first lockdown by walking laps of his garden to raise almost £33m for NHS charities. In the spirit of his resilience, determination and positivity let us live by and remember his message of hope that "tomorrow will be a good day".

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Butler
Principal

