

15 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Update 15 January 2021

Another week has passed and now we have adverse weather to add further complications, I am afraid this is not the promising start to the new year that I had hoped for. I hope students, parents and families are continuing to stay safe and like myself are looking forward to seeing the impact of the Covid vaccination programme and more normality resuming. I am, however, incredibly proud of how students and staff alike have adapted to this new norm and I have been overwhelmed by the quality of 'live lessons' that have taken place over the last two weeks in terms of teacher and student input.

Introduction from New Deputy Headteacher - Mr Storey

It is with great pleasure that I am able to introduce myself to all students, parents and families associated with Hungerhill School. It has certainly been an interesting first couple of weeks in post, but I have been made to feel incredibly welcome by the staff, students and parents that I have had the opportunity to meet so far. I am extremely excited taking up the post as Deputy Headteacher and I have been impressed by the overwhelming dedication of the whole Hungerhill staff since my arrival. Their desire to provide the very best education and pastoral care to students in our community is very clear to see and I am delighted to be joining such a hardworking and caring team of staff.

With 20 years' experience in education, I join Hungerhill, having worked at Horizon Community College in Barnsley for the past 8 years, the last 7 of which being part of the Senior Leadership Team there. With that, I feel that I bring a wealth of experience to an already successful Leadership Team here at Hungerhill and I look forward to being part of the next stages of the school's development.

Being a South Yorkshireman myself, supporting and improving the life chances of our young people in our area is very important to me. I am a great believer that anything is possible, and that every child should be supported and challenged to be the very best they can be. Academically, we will strive for excellence in every area and this will be underpinned by the holistic development of the individual, as we prepare our students for success. The core values at Hungerhill, very much resonate with me and I feel in building an education around these, our young people will be provided with a 'full' education, preparing them to embrace 21st century life. I look forward to meeting you all in the near future.

Remote Learning Attendance – Mrs Parker-Browne

The school would like to make parents/carers aware that the text message they receive regarding their child's attendance during remote learning is an automated one that is for information only. We would like to highlight that absence will be flagged up when the teacher takes the register at the beginning of the lesson, so consequently your child might be recorded as absent from the lesson if they are late in joining the lesson or they are accessing the lesson at a later time due to the sharing of devices. However, it could mean they did not join



that lesson at all for that live session. We are making you aware of any absence so that you can have the necessary conversation with your child to help monitor their engagement with school. We would like to reassure parents/carers that the school will not be using the data to impose sanctions and the messages do not require you to respond. We would like to thank you for your continued support at this time

Head of Year Contact Details

Please see the below in the event that you need to contact your child's Head of Year over the remainder of this half-term.

Year 7 – Mr Tomlinson – Tomlinson.Cli@hungerhillschool.com

Year 8 – Miss Galloway – Galloway.G@hungerhillschool.com

Year 9 – Ms Archibald – Archibald.S@hungerhillschool.com

Year 10 – Mrs Lane – Lane.S@hungerhillschool.com

Year 11 – Mrs Herd – Herd.D@hungerhillschool.com

Form Time and Assembly – Mr Hickin

Our Form Time and assembly programme is now in full swing; attendance is being monitored closely and has been great, but we would like to start by reminding all parents and students of the expectation to attend this every morning from 8.40am. Form Tutors have set up the invitations that can be found both in your child's calendar and within their tutor group's 'Team'.

Monday mornings are assembly morning, where a video assembly has been produced for the Form Tutor to show students; a range of topics will be covered that we believe will be helpful to all of our students. This will be followed on Tuesdays by an activity based on the theme of the week's assembly. We kicked off this week with an assembly aimed at providing guidance and 'top tips' to help students make the most of their remote learning, this can be viewed using the following link:

<https://www.hungerhillschool.com/page/?title=News+%26amp%3B+Events&pid=3>


Starting each day with Form Time is essential for keeping students in the normal school routine, adding structure to the day and for starting each day well. It gives all form tutors the opportunity to communicate with the students in their form, maintain those important relationships and keep a close eye on student welfare. It also reminds students that they are not alone, despite working in isolation, giving them the opportunity to stay in touch with the members of their group and their Tutor, providing that constant nurturing link to school away from their lessons. Student voice following the first lockdown indicated that this regular contact with their peers and tutors is something that they missed the most, and we strongly believe that adding this to the delivery of lessons is really important for student welfare, routine and mental health.

The virtual Form Time also offers enriching and fun activities, including the weekly inter-form quiz competition that runs each Thursday and a variety of tasks and challenges which we are sure the students will enjoy.

Year 8 Curriculum Pathways – Miss Tredgett

This week, Year 8 have begun their Key Stage 4 Curriculum Pathways process by viewing presentations and completing tasks via remote learning. Please get in touch at admin@hungerhillschool.com if you have yet to receive the two letters sent home earlier this week regarding the Pathways. A reminder that the Virtual Guidance Key Stage 4 Guidance Evening takes place on Thursday 21 January from 4.45pm to 6.45 pm via Teams. Further information for this event will be sent to Year 8 parents in due course.



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Year 10 Mock Examinations – Non-Core Subjects – Miss Tredgett

As you be aware from previous correspondence, Year 10 students were due to sit their Year 10 Mock exams in non-core subjects starting the week beginning 1 February. Due to the national lockdown, this will now not be possible.

We are currently reviewing the best dates to reschedule the examinations but at this time, due to the uncertainty over when lockdown will be lifted, we are unable to provide definite dates. It may be possible to reschedule these examinations in March. Consequently, we strongly urge students to engage with their remote learning for all subjects as the material being covered is likely to make up part of the examinations. As always, we will endeavour to keep you informed with any new plans. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Year 11 Exams – Miss Tredgett

At this moment in time, whilst it has been announced that GCSE exams have been cancelled, schools have no further information as to how students will be awarded their GCSE grades. We have also yet to hear how other Level 2 qualifications will be awarded (BTECs, OCR, Nationals and RSL) as their summer exam series are still scheduled. We will endeavour to keep you updated and will support our Year 11 students so that they receive the grades that they deserve. We understand that this uncertainty from the DfE is not helpful and until we know more, it is essential that all Year 11 students continue to work with their teachers with their remote learning.

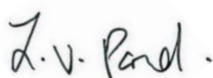
As you may have heard in the media this week, the Year 11 BTEC examinations that were scheduled for February have now been cancelled. We are awaiting further news from OFQUAL regarding whether these examinations will be rescheduled for later in the year.

Art Competition

As previously mentioned, students had the opportunity to partake in the school's Art Competition. Due to the national lockdown, the deadline for entries has now been extended to Monday 18 January at 12.00pm. Students can take a photograph of their entries and email directly to Peters.D@hungerhillschool.com Entries will be judged next week.

Thank you for your continued support and help in ensuring that your child engages with our remote learning offer. The school sends its very best wishes to all students and families. Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond
Headteacher



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