

12 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Update 12 February 2021**

At the end of what has been a very unusual half term, I would like to start by passing on my thanks to you all for your continued support. Our remote learning programme has been relaunched and although feedback from staff, students and parents/carers has been overwhelmingly positive, it has brought with it, it's own challenges. The school has seemed eerily empty over recent weeks, despite the fact we have welcomed sixty students into school to support with their educational provision. I speak for the whole staffing body when I say we eagerly await the return of face-to-face learning. As you are aware, current guidance states that this will be no earlier than Monday 8 March. As soon as we have more information, we will communicate this with you all.

**Attitude to Learning Grades – Year 7-10**

Staff have been awarding Attitude to Learning grades for students in Year 7-10 based on their remote learning over the past half term. We are currently collating this and will be issuing these to parents on Monday 22 February.

**Drop Down Day – Wednesday 24 February**

We are currently planning for this day to be an 'off-timetable' day, which replaces structured classroom lessons with activities on a specific theme, to strengthen students' practical application of skills and provide a deeper learning experience. An additional aspect of the day will be to provide some 'release' from the current 5 hours screen time that students are being exposed to on a daily basis. Please see an overview below, with an SLT Lead attached. More specific details will be circulated to students via Teams the week beginning the 22 February.

**Year 11 – Mr Storey**

As part of the forthcoming drop-down day, the focus for Year 11 will be 'The Future' and supporting students throughout the next few months to make a successful transition to life after Hungerhill. The day will be filled with activities and events to provide further support, advice, guidance and information. We are working with Doncaster UTC and other local partners to provide a variety of workshops, talks and activities that will not only support students now but also in the future. Students are also providing feedback into what they feel would benefit them on this day and more details regarding the programme for the day will be published in due course.

## Year 9 and 10 – Mrs Parker-Browne

Year 9 and 10 will focus on how to get the most out of revision and exam practice. They will focus on learning strategies and how to improve memorisation and recall. Students will review how to commit learning from short term to long term memory and there will be opportunities to work on exam technique. Students will take away a 'Learning to Learn' booklet with top tips and helpful learning and revision strategies, which will support them in their internal exams, which they will sit later in the year.

## Year 7 and 8 – Mrs Laidlaw

The focus for Key Stage 3 is on wellbeing and developing a positive mindset, coupled with an opportunity for students to explore their creative side. Students will invent their own superhero from a choice of media and have the opportunity to analyse and celebrate some of the acts of kindness that have been displayed throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. As part of this day, we will be asking students to nominate anyone within the school community for a 'Spirit of Hungerhill' certificate in recognition of going above and beyond to support the local community in these unprecedented times.

### Spirit of Hungerhill Certificate

As per above, Key Stage 3 will be helping to support the school to promote and celebrate those students that have gone above and beyond in the creation of the 'Spirit of Hungerhill' Certificate. This has been inspired by Abi Green in Year 9 for her voluntary work at the Covid vaccination centre, where she has been working alongside a team of 20 health professionals. Well done, Abi! The whole school community is proud of your efforts!

### Mass testing of students upon the return to school


As it stands, the expectation remains for schools to undertake a period of 'mass testing' in preparation for students returning to school. As this could be as early as the 8<sup>th</sup> March, plans are all in place for this testing to commence when given the green light by the government. The testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged to control the spread of the virus once lockdown measures are eased. Students will be expected to attend school for their allocated appointment slot, details of which will be distributed after half term. Thank you to all those parents that have already provided consent. If you are yet to do so and wish for your child to be tested before their return to school, please complete the form below:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gpGINmBo\\_0aOcV4qHhM4ZmeL1Sr67ShlkNpiS6uu9PRUMTICUEZQQIIOREFMVjk2UDA0UUFUT0VKSC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gpGINmBo_0aOcV4qHhM4ZmeL1Sr67ShlkNpiS6uu9PRUMTICUEZQQIIOREFMVjk2UDA0UUFUT0VKSC4u)

### Drop in Parental Support

After our three successful interactive parental sessions, we are pleased to now offer Hungerhill parents and carers the opportunity to attend parent drop-in sessions every Thursday morning via Zoom. The drop-in sessions will be run by Sara Bagshaw, the school's Family Support liaison and will give parents and carers the opportunity to discuss any concerns or worries they may have about their child during this challenging time. They will offer the chance to explore useful strategies and approaches with parents on how to manage in these times including challenging behaviour, emotional wellbeing, routines, family relationships and more. The drop-in sessions will run from 9:00am to 11:30am beginning Thursday 25th February 2021. A waiting lobby will be provided, and parents will be seen on a first come first served basis. A link will be circulated via email every Thursday morning.



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## Year 11

The Year 11 Teams Meeting on Wednesday 27th January, provided an update as to how Year 11 students will be awarded their GCSE grades this summer-this was extremely well attended with 82% of the year group present. Students were encouraged to complete an OFQUAL consultation survey asking for their views and opinions as to how teachers would assess students to provide grades. The consultation has now closed and nationally over 100,000 responses were submitted with half of these from students. We hope you had your say!! The school has also submitted an official response on behalf of our students. Recent communication from OFQUAL has informed us that schools will be provided with more information and next steps on the 22nd February (first week back after half term). In the meantime, they have also published a blog with further information which can be accessed using the link below. Whilst we wait for further information, we continue to advise students to 'Keep Calm and Carry On' as the work they are completing remotely may be used in determining their grades.

<https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/29/consultation-update-and-a-proposal-for-externally-set-papers/>

## Year 10 Catch-Up Programme

You may have seen in the media recently, the tentative plans being suggested by the government to address the impact of lost learning time caused by the three national lockdown periods throughout the last year. You will recall from our letter before Christmas that this has been at the forefront of our planning and we feel as a school we are ahead of most schools in our planning for the return of students. Specifically, with regards Year 10 we can already confirm that an assessment period has been scheduled for w/c 22 March which will provide an up to date picture of student progress and identify any gaps in students' learning. The information from which will be shared with parents. Additionally, from Easter, throughout the whole summer term and Year 11, we will be introducing a Period 6. This will be an additional lesson in the week that will allow for those subjects most affected by the lost teaching time to recoup some of the lost learning hours. We can also confirm, that following the success of last year's Summer School, that once again we will be running this in 2021. This is scheduled for the week commencing 16 August. More specific details regarding both the Period 6 and Summer School will be shared after half term. Mrs Lane, Head of Year 10, remains available to provide any additional support now and in the future.


## Instrumental Lessons Update

With the uncertainty surrounding when schools will open for face-to-face teaching and in what capacity, we have made the decision to keep instrumental lessons on hold for all students apart from those studying music as part of their KS4 curriculum. We do not want to put in place a solution for online teaching if we cannot then make it work when we are back in school, as we feel that this only adds further to the disruption. We will continue to review this throughout next half term.

## Wellbeing Programme

As part of the school's agenda to support and promote student wellbeing we have worked with subject areas to provide a programme of voluntary activities for students to complete during the half term break and into Spring Term 2.



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**Geography Photo Competition** – Our Geography department are running a Photography Competition, which closes on Friday 26 February. Students are encouraged to take an incredible photograph of something relating to a geography topic they have studied or are interested in. This could be complimented with a catchy title or #hashtag (geography related) and there is even an option to create a montage of photographs on a theme, for the more ambitious photographers amongst us. First prize is a digital camera, with two runners up receiving a £10 Love to Shop voucher. This is open to all year groups, as creativity has no limits!! Please use the following link for further information:

<https://www.hungerhillschool.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=359>

**Song-writing Course Update** – All students who expressed an interest in the online song-writing course have been set up on the system and should have received a welcome email/invite (to their school email address). Students are free to explore this at their own leisure, but Miss Crowder will also look at hosting an online session one day after school in the week beginning 22 February to get students started if they would prefer to wait for this.

**Online Macbeth Viewing (from The Globe)** – Our Year 10 students are lucky enough to have been given access to a full online viewing of Macbeth, put together by Shakespeare's Globe in London. Over the 5 weeks between February half term and Easter, all Year 10 students will complete a home learning project which will support their viewing of the production. This fantastic resource is being offered to our students for free - the opportunity to see a play at The Globe under normal circumstances would cost our students a significant amount of money, so this is one not to be missed! Not only is this a great chance to be immersed in a theatre production; it will undoubtedly support our students' study of Macbeth later this year. As one of their set texts for their English Literature GCSE, this is more important than ever. We hope they enjoy it!

**Reading Competition** – Our English department have launched a reading competition for all Year 7 and 8 students this week. The competition will see each student log how many minutes they read per day, in an effort to help their class and year group achieve the 60,000-minute target by Easter. Reading for pleasure is more important now than ever, as the benefits for mental health and well-being are clear: research suggests that reading for just 6 minutes per day can help to reduce stress by up to 68%. A Reading at Home Support Booklet has been uploaded to the website, along with the resources used to introduce the competition to students. Our teachers are rallying behind the students and signing up to log minutes for different classes and year groups - let's see how many minutes we can record as a school! Who will reach the 60,000-minute target first? Please use the following link for more information:

<https://www.hungerhillschool.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=358>

**MFL Competition** – Calling all fajita fanatics, enchilada experts and champion crêpe creators. This competition is open to students and staff with entries being submitted by Friday 26th February. Our MFL department are asking students to find a recipe for a meal/cake/any other food they would like to create. This could be French/Spanish or from any other country. Students should follow the recipe and safely make the dish, taking photos or even a video as evidence. There is even an option to create a video of students reviewing their food in either French or Spanish for the confident linguists out there! First, second and third prizes are Amazon vouchers. Please use the following link for more information:

<https://www.hungerhillschool.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=360>

## Art Competition Winners

As you may be aware, we recently ran the Hungerhill Art Competition. Mrs Pond and the Leadership Team were overwhelmed with the quality of the entries and found it very difficult to pick five lucky winners.



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Congratulations to Farrah Benson 8L, Amy Heath 10L, Summer Richardson 7N, Matthew Stevenson 11E and Dannyel Ticala 10L for submitting the winning entries! These students all received a deluxe art pack as a reward for their efforts. Winning entries can be seen using the following link:

<https://www.hungerhillschool.com/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=357>

### Year 11 Christmas Master Class Winners

Over the Christmas period, Year 11 students were invited to participate in a Virtual Christmas Master Class. Students were given a 'Pick and Mix' menu of activities relating to different curriculum areas. To allow us to celebrate students' commitment to their studies, for each completed piece of work, students were entered into a prize draw. The Senior Leadership Team completed the draw on Monday 25 January.

Samuel Watson – iPad

Sudais Habib - £40 Amazon gift card

Elizabeth Boldry - £30 Nandos gift card

Alice Wilkinson-Leigh - £25 Meadowhall gift card

Matthew Stevenson - £20 Love2Shop voucher

Ben Turner - £50 TGI Friday gift card

Matthew Faulkner - £40 JD Sports gift card

Owen Dungworth - £25 Just Eat gift card

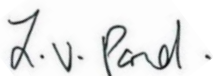
Mollie Peacock - £20 Love2Shop voucher

Sonay Borucu - 20 Love2Shop voucher

As many of you may be aware, Mrs Rivers stepped down from her role as Deputy Headteacher in December 2019 to take on the role of Behaviour and Inclusion Manager. Mrs Rivers has made the decision to take early retirement and Friday 12 February is officially her last day in school. We are all deeply saddened that staff and students alike were unable to celebrate Mrs Rivers' outstanding contribution towards the school over the past 22 years. We will therefore be inviting her back in the Summer Term for a formal farewell.


Despite the lockdown restrictions, we hope that staff, students and parents/carers alike have some quality downtime over the half term break and enjoy the lack of screen time. We hope everyone continues to stay safe and well as the vaccination programme rolls out.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Pond  
Headteacher



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