

22nd January 2021

Dear parent/carer,

We understand how difficult this period is for many of our pupils, and also for you as parents and carers. Attempting to keep up with school work within a home environment is not always straightforward for some pupils, with many distractions making it difficult for them to keep up with the work being set. Others find it easier to do this and so it is sometimes a difficult balancing act to set work which can be achieved by all. We do try to be flexible in our expectations but this is not always possible.

As the lockdown continues however, we are aware that a significant number of our pupils are finding it increasingly difficult to manage their workload, and are spending an inordinate amount of time in front of their computers on a daily basis in order to engage with their lessons and to ensure all tasks are completed and submitted on time. Whilst we admire their commitment and are really pleased with the huge efforts that many of our pupils are making, we are also aware that prolonged working in this way is not good for their health and wellbeing. We have listened to the many of you who have contacted us recently to share your concerns about the stress and anxiety this is placing on your children.

As a step towards addressing this issue, **we intend to suspend the teaching timetable on Wednesdays of every week. We will call these days Wellbeing Wednesdays.** On Wellbeing Wednesdays, pupils:

- will not need to follow their timetables;
- can, instead, use this time to catch up with outstanding school-work, or do something different. i.e. non-screen time, or a combination of both- whatever suits them best;
- can still contact teachers who will be available to respond to queries. Teachers will also use this day to plan, prepare and assess work.

It seems that this period of lockdown will continue for the foreseeable future. We hope that by dividing the week into two periods of two days with a break in the middle will help to keep all of our pupils motivated, and also give them a better balance between school-work and their other interests.

We will continue to monitor the situation, but would also welcome your feedback in the meantime.

Kind regards



Mr P Edwards
Headteacher

