



Nether Stowe School

Headteacher: Mr G Langston-Jones
St Chad's Road
Lichfield, Staffordshire
WS13 7NB
Tel: 01543 263446 & 263487

8th January 2021

New Term Update

Dear parent or carer,

I appreciate you have received a number of letters and communication over the recent days. Naturally, I don't wish to flood you with information but felt that it was important to reinforce some key information at the end of a very busy and important week.

Remote Learning

To further improve our remote learning programme, we will be making some changes with effect Monday 11th January.

At the start of each week, pupils in each year group (7-11) will receive an email with a single document containing links to the work set for that week. The links will specifically direct pupils to the folder of resources on Stella and will enable pupils to quickly navigate to the relevant work. The resources are all bespoke to specific classes and include direct instruction from the class teacher. Pupils are expected to complete a brief quiz at the end of each lesson.

It is important to note that pupils must have logged-on to their Insight account before they can receive the email. However, the document will also be available via the website, please see below for the link.

Please remember that the work should be spread out over the course of the week and in accordance with the pupil's normal timetable of lessons for the particular day.

To support parents and pupils, we will also publish these documents on the website. They can be accessed by [clicking on this page](#). The first document will be published by 08:30 on Monday 11th January and will then be updated on Monday each week.

To support access, we have also created additional guides for pupils and parents, which can also be accessed on the same page [here](#)

For ease of access, the resources are designed to be mobile friendly as well as work on laptops and other internet enabled devices. If your child has very limited or no access to a suitable device at home, please contact Miss Sullivan at dsullivan@netherstowe.com and we will arrange for appropriate support.

Students in Year 12 and 13, will access work via Microsoft Teams and, where possible, will receive a 'live' lesson in accordance with their current timetable. Staff will communicate arrangements directly with their groups.

We want to make sure that all pupils can access the resources and continue learning. If you experience any problems accessing the resources, please contact: ITAdvice@atlp.org.uk. When emailing, please remember to state the school name, full pupil name as well as the nature of the problem.

Email: office@netherstowe.com Website: www.netherstowe.com Twitter: [@netherstowe](https://twitter.com/netherstowe)



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Scheduled BTEC Exams

As you may have seen from the letter provided earlier this week, formal, external BTEC examinations will be going ahead as planned.

The parents of pupils who wish to sit the exams should contact the exam secretary, Jane Haddock, (jhaddock@netherstowe.com) at the earliest opportunity, clearly stating the pupil name and the relevant qualification.

Summer Exams and Internal Assessments (Year 11 and Year 13).

Following the announcement from the Secretary of State for Education on Wednesday, you will have seen that summer examinations have now been cancelled. We are awaiting specific information regarding the methodology for the awarding of grades and we will share this information with you at the appropriate point. In the meantime, it is essential that pupils in key examination years continue their learning and hard work.

As you will be aware, we had planned formal internal assessments to take place for Year 11 and Year 13 throughout January and early February. Obviously, these will now not happen. Whilst we will implement further assessment opportunities at a later point this academic year and, hopefully, on the return of pupils to school, we will communicate the arrangements with you well in advance to ensure pupils are fully supported.

Free School Meals

Until we receive further information from the government with regards to ongoing support for free school meals, for pupils normally in receipt of free school meals, weekly hampers can be collected from reception. Please contact reception to arrange a suitable time for collection.

Well-Being Support

Good mental health and the emotional wellbeing of children and young people is just as important as their physical health.

We recognise that this is even more important and challenging during school closure, when some of the usual support mechanisms students can access are not available.

One of the most important ways you can support your child is to listen to them talk about their feelings and concerns. Whilst you may not have all the answers for them, active listening will help your child to process their thoughts.

Other ways you can help include:

- Suggest regular breaks from social media
- Encourage other hobbies or interests e.g. yoga and mindfulness (lots of online resources available)
- Have fun! - Provide lots of light relief at home e.g. playing board games, daily outdoor exercise, and creative activities
- Encourage your child to use the helpful resources on our school's wellbeing website

Please also remember to look after yourselves. Support yourself, to best support your child. Whatever you and your child are dealing with, you are not alone.

If you are concerned and need to speak to someone:

Email: office@netherstowe.com Website: www.netherstowe.com Twitter: [@netherstowe](https://twitter.com/netherstowe)



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- Young Minds is a national charity providing resources and advice for young people. <https://youngminds.org.uk>. If you need urgent help text YM to 85258.
- MindEd for Families provides information on a range of mental health problems <https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk>
- Bereavement services - Winston's Wish helpline 08088 020 021, online chat Tues afternoon, Friday mornings <https://www.winstonswish.org/online-chat>
- Child Bereavement UK helpline 0800 02 888 40.

If you have any safeguarding concerns during school hours (08:30 – 16:00) contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Sullivan on 07522842936. Outside of school hours contact Staffordshire First Response on 0800 1313126 or the Police.

Most importantly, please continue to keep safe and look after each other.

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

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