



Smithdon High School
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To all Year 11 Parents

Dear Parents

As we reach the midway point in this half term, I wanted to contact you to thank you for your continued support with your children's home learning.

We are so proud of the resilience being shown by our students in these more structured times of remote education and in meeting the increased expectations compared to the 2020 Lockdown: in order to ensure all our students continue to make progress, learn new topics and explore the curriculum as closely at home to what they would be doing if we were in school as normal. Despite these times of Covid-19 it is so important to keep children's education going and provide them with the knowledge and skills they will need in their futures.

Following the change to online learning that we introduced this week, with students required to be online by 8.30am for registration every day and then online at the start of each new lesson, we are really pleased to see the numbers of students who are engaging with their lessons and their work – taking responsibility for their own progress and development. We also appreciate the many positive comments and the positive feedback from those of you who have taken the time to contact us, as we all adapt to these new approaches.

As ever, we continue to listen to your concerns, as well as praise, and invite you to contact us and let us know if there is anything you are worried about. We continue to strive to ensure students are also able to get time to exercise and complete tasks away from the computer – and, as such, please remind them that there is no need for them to be online earlier than their lesson start times (8.30, 9am, 10am, 11.25, 12.25 and 2pm).

The Department for Education and Ofqual have now launched their public consultation regarding the process to be applied for the awarding of GCSE grades this summer for Year 11 students. As soon as this consultation has closed, and the process has been confirmed with schools, we will contact you about how this will work and what we will be doing to ensure our students receive the outcomes they deserve at the end of their education at Smithdon. In the meantime, thank you for continuing to support your children in engaging with their lessons, completing the work set and helping to build the body of evidence required to support the awarding of their grades.

We hope you continue to remain safe and well.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Gibbins
Head of School

