



Smithdon High School
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To all Year 10 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).

Finally, I would like to apologise again for the disruption to last week's parents' evening. This was a result of technical issues originating with the service provider and schools across the country were affected. School Cloud have issued the following statement:

SchoolCloud provides parents' evening software to over 5,000 schools, and experienced an outage on 14th January affecting the parents & teachers accessing video calls at that time. An update to the system in December caused a web page to perform slowly and this ultimately took the system offline. This wasn't up to the high standard of service that schools expect of us, nor that we expect of ourselves. We have already made changes, and continue to take further steps to ensure that you can continue to enjoy this new format of parents' evenings.

We have now rescheduled the Year 10 evening for Tuesday 9 February and will contact you again nearer the time regarding appointments for the new evening.

We hope you continue to remain safe and well.

Best wishes.



Yours sincerely

A. Gibbins.

Mrs A Gibbins
Head of School