



St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Friday 8 January 2021

Dear Families

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

I did not expect to be writing to you again so soon and with news of further changes to the plans for the beginning of the spring term. Since my letter of 1 January 2021, the government announced a national lockdown and we have now moved to remote learning for the majority of students, with onsite provision for students who are in the [government identified categories](#).

I understand your frustration and concern about your child's education and we are doing all that we can to ensure your child has access to learning.

Government Scheme for Laptops and Internet Access

We know that many families do not have remote access and the government laptop scheme did not provide us with a sufficient number of laptops to loan to everyone in need.

In the March lockdown we received 26 laptops/chrome books and we are currently waiting for further devices that we were able to order on 2 January. We hope that they will arrive next week.

We are loaning devices and can also support with internet access if this is something you may require. We are very sorry that we will not be able to loan remote devices to every child in need and know this is not ideal, so we are organising paper packs to be collected from the school. The devices will be allocated where there is financial hardship or other technological disadvantage in all year groups and we will always look to expand this where possible.

We have just received information from the DfE called 'Get internet access for disadvantaged children' to increase the data for free on mobile phones. I will write to you again next week once we have looked through the information in detail.

Covid-19 Mass Testing in School

The mass testing programme that was due to begin next week is still being planned. We have not got all the resources and equipment yet and staff are still being trained. We hope to be able to offer the test to staff and students who are working on site during the lockdown period and then roll this out to all staff and students when we return. Next week I will write to you and share further information and consent letters with you.

Cancellation of Summer Examinations

You will have heard on the news the government announcement about summer examinations being cancelled. I have written separately to families of the exam years and will update you as soon as we have more information.

Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals, you will receive an email with information from Wonde, this is the e-voucher scheme that we have been using since October.

School is open and we have staff on site if you have any questions or concerns. Please do contact us by phone and only come in person if you have been given an appointment to come into school to collect an electronic device or paper packs.

Have a safe and relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely

Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING

