

15 January 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian

Please do not panic, this letter is not going to be as long as last time I wrote to you!

I just wanted to touch base with you about a few bit and bobs. We are now two weeks into this lockdown and I am pleased to be able to report that I am hearing about lots of students who are very busy indeed doing their work. Staff are also busy at our end doing everything we can to support them. We will have, by the end of today, phoned the parents of all of our students (though sometimes we had to leave messages) to check that everything is OK and will continue to do this every week throughout this lockdown. I hope this is useful.

I wanted to make you aware of an extra resource that your children can use if they have finished all of our lessons with time to spare. The Department for Education has funded the Oak National Academy to produce recorded lessons, which are very similar to ours, for students across the country to use. Many network providers are beginning to make access to this website free from Data charges (along with the excellent bbc.co.uk/bitesize – which now includes sixth form resources too) so that students can access it for free. Here is the website:

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/>

All of our students have IT access, but some are struggling to view the lessons well on their phones or are sharing laptops with other siblings, etc. We have been given a limited number of devices by the DfE and we have been loaning these out to ensure that all students are able to access what we are offering, but we would like to go further and help those who can access the resources, but not easily. To do this I am asking if any of you can help. If any of you have recently upgraded to a new laptop and have an old one at home that you are not sure what to do with, please consider donating it to us to help improve the home learning experience for a struggling student. All laptops donated to us would be wiped clean and reset to ensure that none of your personal details/files are still there and will then be passed on responsibly to somebody who would make good use of it. If you are able to help, please drop the device directly into school or email us as somebody may be able to collect it. We would be very grateful indeed – but, more importantly, it would make a real difference to the education of some of our students.

On Monday, the next two-week block of lessons will be made available to the students to cover the period of the 18th January to the 29th of January. The current block of lessons will still be available in case some students are a little bit behind. Links to all of the lessons can be found here:

<https://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk/629/covid-19-home-learning>

In the meantime, I hope you and your families have a pleasant weekend. Stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Tracey Savage
Headteacher