

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will all now know that schools across England will be closed to all but vulnerable students and children of key workers until early February. Learning will be moved online and our staff will ensure that there is the highest quality teaching and resources provided for all students in all subjects.

The DFE have provided the following explanations for their decision to close schools:

“This decision does not suggest that schools and colleges are no longer safe places for young people. Instead, limiting attendance is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households.

We have resisted closing schools until now, but in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce all contacts outside households wherever possible.... The overwhelming majority of children and young people have no symptoms or very mild illness only.”

We know that it is of the utmost importance that we stay in contact as a community and so I want to outline our plans for the Half Term.

All students will begin their day with a 15-minute tutor period or assembly which will focus on student well-being. This will be accessible on MS Teams, as will all our lessons. Please click [here](#) for further details of how to access these online learning. There will then be four periods taught in the morning for all students in Years 7-11. **Our Year 11 students will be set additional work on SMHW in the afternoon during periods 5 and 6.** This will allow us to ensure they secure the best possible grades in their GCSEs. The more knowledge they have and evidence of this that we have, the better placed they will be to secure the grades they deserve and places at quality sixth form providers.

TIME	ACTION/EVENT
8:45AM	Tutor Time
9:00AM	P1
9:50AM	P2
10:40AM	Break
10:50AM	P3
11:40AM	P4
12:30PM	Lunch

It is very important that our students maintain a routine and we ask you that support them with this by ensuring they go to bed at a reasonable time and wake up in time to attend lessons, as they would if school were open. We will carefully monitor attendance and contact you should you need additional support.

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‘Cleverer and kinder every day’



If you do not have a device to access online learning please email my Assistant Principal (daniel.mcewen@evelyngraceacademy.org) directly. We have a limited number of chromebooks available for use. We are prioritising key groups, such as students in Key Stage four and any vulnerable students. However, there may still be additional devices, so please make contact.

Every week, we will hold Parent Forums online. These will be advertised with a link to allow you to access this via MS Teams.

My staff will be in regular contact with you to support your child and help them access and succeed in their learning. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the school reception or email info@evelyngraceacademy.org

Students who are entitled to Free School Meals will continue to be supported with vouchers and further details of this will be shared with individual parents directly via email.

Thank you as always for your support and please don't hesitate to contact the main school reception should you need us.

We will run community classrooms for all our students who are either vulnerable or a child of a critical worker. If you think your child might be eligible and wish to book a space, please contact our new Assistant Principal: ania.chawluk@evelyngraceacademy.org who has joined us from the highly successful King Solomon Academy in West London. She has responsibility for Inclusion and safeguarding and replaces Claire Walley, whilst she is on Maternity leave.

All staff and students working in our community classrooms will be tested for the virus using lateral flow tests. These can identify if someone has the virus without having any symptoms (high temperature, new or persistent cough, or change or loss of taste).

Lambeth are also offering these tests to members of our community who do not have any symptoms. Details can be found here: <https://love.lambeth.gov.uk/community-testing-starts-in-lambeth-to-cut-covid-19-transmission/>

Please take care of yourself and your loved ones. These are very challenging times and we are there to help if any of you need any extra support.

With every good wish,



Mr T Dainty
Principal
Ark Evelyn Grace Academy