

Dormers Wells High School

MATHS AND COMPUTING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms R. Walsh B.A.Hons M.Sc.

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12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it has certainly been an interesting term!

Whilst nothing can replace face to face teaching, we have been really delighted with how our live delivery of remote lessons has been progressing. Huge thanks to our teachers and students for being so positive about this.

February Half Term

Even though students and staff have been working in a very different way this term, it is just as important that they have time to rest and recuperate. Therefore, the school will close as usual over February half-term. Families who receive free school meal vouchers will receive a voucher from Ealing Council as part of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme. You do not have to do anything; the local authority will email the voucher to you directly.

Follow the Government Guidelines.

As you will be aware from the news, there is still some concern that some people may be pushing the rules and guidance in relation to the national lockdown. Whilst it is so very difficult, I urge you to ensure your child does not leave the house unless it is for the permitted allowance of exercise.

Parental/Carer Survey

We are delighted that so many families responded to our survey about their experience of supporting their child's learning in lockdown. We are busy using your feedback to continue to improve your child's learning experience. We have also put together some ideas which we hope you will find useful as you support your child's learning at home. [Click here](#). If you have any further questions, please get in touch.

Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening

Our Year 10 parents evening will now take place on Thursday 25th February 2021 between 1.30 – 4.30pm. Please ensure you book an appointment with your son/daughter's teachers.

KS4 & 5 Exams

Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 are, we know, feeling anxious about the arrangements for examinations this year. It is important to remember that any formal assessments are still to take place and that everything is possible – please stay resilient and you will succeed onto the next exciting stage of your education.



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Introduction to Black History Month for parents/carers

This interactive whistle stop presentation is a potted history of Black Peoples' presence in the United Kingdom starting from the Roman Empire and incorporating the Tudor, Georgian, Victorian eras and the arrival of the Windrush generation up to the present day.

The presentation includes aspects of British race relations and its impact on Black and White communities and covers the race riots in the 1950's and the national uprising during the 1980's.

This presentation includes an information sheet detailing teaching resources for parents and sources of further information so parents can continue to learn and teach their children.

Target audience: Ealing parents/carers of Black Caribbean children and young people (children / young people are welcome to attend alongside their parents).

Date: **Wednesday 17 February 2021 (half-term)**

Time: **4 - 5pm via Zoom**

Parents are required to book on by emailing trainingsupport@ealing.gov.uk. You can read more about this presentation [here](#).

Lateral Flow Testing

As you will be aware from our previous newsletter, we as a school have worked incredibly hard to develop and staff the provision of in-school lateral flow testing. This is successfully up and running with staff and students who are currently regularly on-site during this period.

This has been a large logistical task, but one that we are very proud of. We are fully aware that the government have paused on "serial testing" each day as a means to avoid self-isolation but still support, as do we, the mass testing of all students before they return to school which we are still planning for.

We believe this will reassure both staff and students and enable the site to be as safe as is reasonably possible. To do this it is essential that we have consent from all families ahead of time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank to all the families who have already given their consent for their children to take part in school lateral flow testing. You will receive another link via the MyEd app in the coming days – please complete if you have not already given consent to test.



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Start of Term Arrangements

Unfortunately, the school will remain closed to most students and our remote learning programme will continue on the **22nd February 2021 (Week 2)**. Please ensure your child is ready to begin online learning on time so that lessons can commence with the minimum of disruption. Students attending school are to arrive at the usual time in full school uniform.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all your patience and support and wish you all a safe and restful half term break.

Yours faithfully,

Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



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