

Dear Parents,

The announcements made yesterday evening mean that the school will be closed to most pupils for the rest of this half-term. While this is an important step in keeping the whole community safe, I am very worried about the impact this closure could have on the education and mental health of our children.

We must work together incredibly closely in the weeks ahead to make sure that the remote learning curriculum that the school provides is studied carefully by all pupils.

### **1. Year 11 and Year 13 Exams**

The most anxious pupils and parents at the moment will be those who had been expecting to prepare for exams at the end of this academic year.

Tomorrow afternoon, at 4.30pm (Year 11) and 5.00pm (Year 13), I will lead assemblies for pupils and parents in those year groups. I will share information about what we know so far and I will try to answer any questions.

- [Click here](#) to join the Year 11 event at 4.30pm tomorrow
- [Click here](#) to join the Year 13 event at 5.00pm tomorrow

### **2. Remote Learning**

A reminder that remote learning will begin tomorrow morning for pupils in Year 11 and 13, and pupils in those year groups should be up, awake and ready to learn by 8.30am when they will receive an email from their Head of Year.

Pupils must submit their assignments and quizzes by 2.00pm each day. To ensure that the deadline is met, pupils should work through sessions in the order set out on the timetable.

After the 2.00pm deadline pupils can continue with the afternoon lessons and revision which will be assessed through assignments and quizzes on subsequent days.

You can support your child's learning best by checking the timetable and checking assignments. We will also share with you a regular summary

Each morning, pupils will be provided with six lessons to complete and it is expected that it will take them a full school day to complete them. These lessons will include a mixture of videos, PowerPoints and workbooks. Pupils will be assessed *at least* twice each week for each subject either through an online quiz or an extended assignment task which their teachers will review.

Each afternoon, if a pupil has not completed their set assignments, parents will receive a phone call from the school to let them know and discuss any support that may be required.

A reminder that all students engaging with the remote learning are agreeing to comply with the updated Code of Conduct that can be found on the [Remote Learning](#) section of the website.

### **Years 11 & 13**

From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January Y11 and Y13 will also receive live lessons as part of their provision through MS Teams.

More information on how to access live lessons will be communicated with students on Thursday.

For pupils in other year groups more information about the provision of live learning opportunities will be shared in the weeks ahead.

You will find more information about Remote Learning on the school website, including links to helpful guides and videos.

### **3. Digital Devices**

It has been exciting to be able to provide almost all pupils across the school with a laptop which they can use to complete remote learning.

If your child has not yet received a laptop but needs one to be able to access the work, or if your child has a laptop but is experiencing any technical difficulties, please email [info@arkstalbans.org](mailto:info@arkstalbans.org).

I know that for some families, a lack of internet access makes accessing online learning difficult for their children. If this is the case for your family, please do also email [info@arkstalbans.org](mailto:info@arkstalbans.org) as we do have a small number of data dongles which we can provide for pupils to use free of charge.

### **4. Covid Testing**

Yesterday, I shared a link to this [online form](#) asking you provide consent for your child to take part in the Covid testing programme.

Although this is now no longer urgent, it is possible that when schools do re-open later this year that testing pupils for the virus will be part of the plans put in place to keep schools safe.

Therefore please do take this time to complete the [consent form](#) over the next few days.

### **5. Onsite Provision**

Please remember that if you are a key worker or your child is vulnerable, then you can request a place in our onsite provision from Wednesday morning onwards by emailing [info@arkstalbans.org](mailto:info@arkstalbans.org).

### **6. Keeping In Touch**

If you would like to discuss our plans for remote learning the start of term, please do email [jayne.hooper@arkstalbans.org](mailto:jayne.hooper@arkstalbans.org) who will be happy to arrange a time for you and I to speak on the phone next week.

Kind regards,



**Guy Rimmer**  
**Principal**