



Dear Parents,

I hope you had a good half term holiday and the first week of our new half term of Stay at Home School is going well.

### **Lockdown easing and global events:**

Over half term there have been a number of changes to the rules that we have been living under and some fairly significant political events both at home and around the world. I have tried to address what it means for our school community in my assembly this week which is available via the Stay at Home School page on our website. You may want to watch it with your child(ren) – although despite many years of delivering assemblies, I am still getting used to recording them!

Although our students may now meet in groups of up to six, we ask that they are focused on their education during the usual school day. That may include educational activities and exercise with family members. Our experience in supervision has been that most students do need support and reminders to follow social distancing rules. If you do decide to allow your child(ren) to meet up with friends, please do ensure that they are very clear about the expectations and also the important reasons for this. It may be better to allow shorter, supervised contact in smaller pairs or groups first to ensure that they are able to follow the rules independently, but you will know how well your child(ren) will be able to manage this. It is also advisable to follow a “social bubble” model and have contact with the same small group regularly than meet up with lots of different groups.

I have tried to address the issue of what we do when people in positions of responsibility do not live by the rules or our INSPIRE values in my assembly. We always teach our students that we live by these values, and the expectations that allow us to function as a community, for ourselves and others in our community, not just because they are told to. We also teach them not to be bystanders, but to ensure their voices are heard in a way that is in keeping with our values. It was so powerful to see our musicians respond at such short notice to provide photos for our Blackout Tuesday protest, to show that we do not tolerate or condone racism in any form. We are very aware of the impact of coronavirus on the BAME community, as well as the protests against racism in the USA and UK following the death in police custody of George Floyd. We had already planned to use the 100 Great Black Britons Competition as a focus for our curriculum this half term, and we will also continue to explore current affairs with our students through our tutor and citizenship programme.

<https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/>

### **Year 10 On-site Provision:**

We are continuing to implement our protective measures plan for students and staff currently attending site as part of our supervision provision. We are installing hand sanitizer dispensers in every classroom to supplement our hand washing facilities, organising classrooms to allow for social distancing, establishing regular cleaning practices throughout the school day and creating “social bubbles”.

The government have now published guidance for secondary schools on providing some on-site provision for Year 10 students to support remote learning after 15<sup>th</sup> June. This will be part time and a maximum of 25% of Year 10 students may attend the site on any day. It is also clear from the guidance that the quality of remote learning for all students must be maintained, along with supervision for students who meet the criteria.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

Our priority is to establish a regular “social bubble” tutor session for Year 10 students to support their remote learning and help them to prepare for Year 11 and the next stage of their education. At present it is our intention that all Year 10 students who are able to attend site have attended their first session by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

Once the Year 10 assessments have been completed we will begin a programme of subject support sessions on site. These will be targeted small group sessions. In line with scientific advice, we intend to expand our on-site provision gradually, with the priority remaining the health, safety and wellbeing of our school community.

We will be writing to Year 10 students and their parents with more details as soon as we are able to.

In the meantime, we hope that our programme of assessments over the next two weeks give Year 10 students an opportunity to focus on what they have learnt and can remember, and that this, along with starting to think about where they want to be and what they want to be doing when they leave Alderman White next year, will give them a real focus for the rest of this term.

We are really looking forward to seeing our Year 7-9 students too, and meeting our new Year 7 students in person, as soon as we are able to do so. However, as I know you will all appreciate, we have to operate within government regulations, and to wait until it is safe for us to do so.

#### **Year 9 Key Stage 4 Transition Curriculum:**

We are going to confirm specialisms with Year 9 students by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. From this date, we will be launching our Key Stage 4 Transition curriculum with Year 9. Students will continue with their current English, Maths and Science google classrooms and will be preparing for online assessments in these subjects only which they will complete week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> June. We will issue new google classroom codes for specialism subjects, and students should join the classrooms for their 4 specialism subjects. These classrooms will focus on developing core skills in the subject and introducing the course content. Students will continue with their current Citizenship classroom.

#### **Stay at Home School:**

Now that we know that remote learning is going to be our way of operating for at least 15 school weeks, it is essential that we all work together to make it as effective as possible.

Almost every tutor group in Year 7-10 has had at least one live tutor session this week, and from next week they will be happening at least weekly for all groups. Please contact your child’s tutor or Progress Leader if they need more support to access this. From next week, these will take place between 9.00am and 10.00am. We are aiming to increase the number of live subject sessions offered to students in all year groups. We have asked teachers to add these as an assignment in google classrooms so that students are reminded that they are happening.

Lots of information goes out to students by email as well as in their tutor group and year group google classroom. Please encourage your child(ren) to check their school emails every week day!

In our Teaching and Learning session this week staff will be sharing and discussing good practice for organising and running online classrooms, and strategies for ensuring that all students are both supported and challenged.

#### **Monitoring Student Work:**

We appreciate that the challenge of motivating and organising themselves while working remotely is a big responsibility for many students. Teachers and Progress Leaders are working hard to engage students and

monitor completion of work. We are also planning to invite parents to google classrooms – this will enable you to receive a daily or weekly email with an update of your child's work. However, in my experience as a parent this is no substitute for reviewing your child's google classrooms with them. Please can I request that you get your child to show you their classrooms at least weekly. You will then be able to see first-hand the work completed and any work that is outstanding, and this will support your child in being motivated and organised. You (or your child) can then contact your child's tutor or teachers where further support or guidance is required.

#### **Year 11 Provision:**

We are now reaching the stage in the term where Year 11 would have been completing their exams and beginning their long summer holiday. We remain committed to holding a Reunion Leavers Assembly and Prom as soon as we are able to, and work continues on the 2020 Year Book. From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June we will continue to run GCSE provision for students who are intending to take GCSE exams next year, and students will continue to have access to the post-16 preparation materials that have been signposted. BC6F are offering an extended Induction Programme as are other post-16 providers. Year 11 students are also able to access the National Citizenship Service which is running an adapted programme this summer <https://wearencs.com/>. We are hugely proud of the achievements of our #Team22 and know how hard it has been for them not to be able to complete their time at Alderman White – it is funny how you can miss exams when you aren't able to do them! We will publish arrangements for Results Day (Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August) as soon as possible.

#### **Parent Forum:**

We will be gathering more feedback from our next remote Parent Forum session on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm**. Please contact the school office (0115 917 0424 or [white@whptrust.org](mailto:white@whptrust.org)) if you would like to receive the link to attend the meeting and to add an item to the agenda.

#### **Together Apart:**

Well done and thank you to all the students who have continued to take part in our Virtual Enrichment Programme, through #StayatHome Choir and Swing Band, as well as Virtual Cabaret rehearsals. These are really uplifting and help to maintain our sense of community, as well as enabling students to continue to develop and showcase their performance skills.

Thank you so much for your continued support and encouragement at this very challenging time.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs A Mellors  
Headteacher