



Thursday 28th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you all well.

You will have seen in the news this week that schools will not be open before 8th March and I imagine this has caused further anxiety at home. We will continue to offer remote learning as we are at the moment and if there are any changes to this date, we will of course let you know what our plan will be.

### **Family Survey**

You will see here a link to a Family Survey. We are extremely keen to gauge the level of satisfaction with what we are currently offering. We have called it a Family Survey as opposed to a Parent Survey as we ask that you complete this as a family so that we can hear the views of you all, parent and child, so that we can then amend the offer if we are missing anything. There is the option to complete it if you have more than one child at the school as there may be differences between the year groups in terms of satisfaction. The free text boxes also allow you to give more specific feedback. As always, if you have significant concerns about your child's wellbeing, please look at the front page of the website where there is a direct link to other services available to support.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SFWLFGJ>

### **Year 9 Options Information**

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January parents will have received an email detailing the relevant information for the Year 9 Options process. The information is also pinned as an announcement on ClassCharts for your convenience. The information sent included an introductory video from Mr Hainsworth outlining the process, the KS4 Curriculum booklet as well as the Year 9 options form for this year. With it being confirmed that schools will not be reopening until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest, we are asking parents to return their child's options information by completing a survey monkey. This questionnaire can be completed by clicking on this [link](#). The deadline for returns is Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. If there are any questions relating to the options process, *please get in touch with either the Progress Team or Mr Hainsworth who will be able to support you.*

### **Monitoring your child's attendance**

For the duration of Lockdown, we are recording the students' attendance in live lessons. As a parent/carer you are able to access this information on ClassCharts using your existing login. There will usually be a 24 hour lag in recording the data and it appearing on your device. The codes are **Present**, **Authorised Absent** (e.g. medical appointment, music lesson), **Absent** (e.g. not turned up) and **Late**. The information is broken down by lesson: P1 = period 1, P2 = period 2 etc and PTu is tutorial. This can be cross referenced with your child's timetable.



Please note:

- (i) the AM/PM column will be blank
- (ii) no register will be taken during core PE lessons so your child will not have a present mark for this session
- (iii) any data on attendance before Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January may not be 100% accurate as we had some teething problems with syncing the data, getting the system up and running.

However, anything that has been recorded **since** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January will reflect your child's attendance. We will contact you if we are concerned about any aspect of your child's attendance in lessons but in the meantime, you are welcome to check this for yourself on a daily/weekly basis. When school reopens properly, we will disable this feature and then use it again for any further periods of whole year group isolation.

**Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub**

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is available to anyone who is struggling during this difficult time – and will now be available on Saturdays.

The hub can help and provide support to those who perhaps don't have a network around them, and also signpost them to where additional help is available in their local area. Hundreds of community groups, run by volunteers, are still set up across the county, providing invaluable assistance to those who need it. Find out more about Wiltshire's Wellbeing Hub [here](#)."

**FSM Vouchers**

The government has recently re-launched the FSM voucher scheme website which had been running last year. We have moved our FSM vouchers to the new website, however there have been a few issues due to the high level of demand on the voucher system. We apologise for the delay this has caused and we are working hard on resolving this for you. We hope that the two weeks' worth of vouchers will be paid on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> to all those entitled to a FSM payment. If you do not receive the e-code voucher by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb please contact [finance@st-laurence.com](mailto:finance@st-laurence.com). Thank you for your patience.

**Year 12 Subject Evening – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 4.30-7.30pm**

This will be run virtually on SchoolCloud and details have been sent to you along with instructions and guidance for the evening. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school.

**Reminders**

Finally, a reminder that there is a half day on 11th February in preparation of the Year 9 Subject Evening and lessons will end at 12.20pm. Also, the school is closed over the February half term break.

Take care.

With kind regards,

Tim Farrer  
Headteacher