

City of Armagh High School

Principal:

Mr C Douglas, BEng, PGCE, MEd

Vice Principal:

Mrs K P Mulholland, BSc (Hons), PGCE, PQH(NI)

6th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

The Education Minister has announced that effective from 7th January 2021, all mainstream education providers, including pre-school education settings, primary and post primary schools, are required to provide remote learning at home to their pupils rather than face to face teaching in school until the half term break in the middle of February.

Going forward, City of Armagh High School will provide supervised learning support for vulnerable and key worker children from Wednesday 6th January 2021. Our Pastoral and SEN teams have made contact with all vulnerable pupils and key worker demand for support has also been ascertained. Arrangements for supervised learning remain as communicated on 1st January by letter with the addition that:

It is now compulsory for post primary pupils to wear face coverings in school and at drop off/pick up areas unless an exemption applies.

We will therefore expect pupils, unless exempt, to wear a face covering in supervised learning sessions as well as in communal areas.

The majority of our pupils will now undertake online learning, **including year 12, until February half term.**

Our staff have been preparing lessons and work will be accessed online using our platforms. Our information hub has been updated to support pupils and parents with accessing our applications. Pupils and parents should note that from Wednesday 6th January all form classes have an MS Team and all pupils will be expected to check in with their tutor on a daily basis by completing a simple form. Should pupils fail to check in with their tutor on two or more occasions the school will make direct contact with parents using the text service.

It is our ambition that teachers will be available to support pupils online at the time of their allocated lesson though they will also be supporting supervised learning on a rota basis. Please note that work will be assigned in line with the number of lessons a subject has allocated per week. All pupils will have received a communication from their form tutor today outlining our online learning offer as a school. We would ask pupils to be mindful that we do have some staff absence at this time and therefore there may be some delay in provision and marking of work. Please also note that some

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staff will be working from home and there may be occasions when they are not available, we appreciate your understanding.

GCSE examinations

At the time of writing it is our understanding that the Education Minister has stated that all GCSE examinations are cancelled for 2021. As a school we understand there will be mixed feelings amongst our pupils and parents regards this decision. At this time we are not aware of what the requirements will be of the school in terms of assessment therefore we would stress the importance of year 12 pupils engaging fully in online learning and submission of work. When we are provided with any more detail on this matter we will correspond directly with year 12 students. The situation regards non-GCSE qualifications such as BTEC, Occupational Studies, Essential Skills etc. continues to evolve and again we will communicate with the relevant pupils when we are in a position to do so.

Finally, I would remind all pupils of the “stay at home” policy currently in place which will become law on Friday. It is crucially important all pupils adhere to this as this will keep yourself and your family as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,

C Douglas

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