



West Hatch High School

A Specialist Business and Enterprise School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm just writing regarding lessons over the next couple of weeks leading up to half term.

Firstly, I'd like to apologise if I didn't communicate effectively enough regarding lessons for Yr.11 and 13 students this past week. Our staff have been busy marking the online assessments so that we could get the results to you as quickly as possible, which takes considerably longer online; I therefore asked them to set students work this week until they had marked and moderated their exams, with formal lessons commencing next week.

I'm sure you will have seen, as I have with my own children who are learning from home; online school can be quite relentless and we have got to the point in the Term where both students and staff are finding lessons, with continually staring at a screen, more of a challenge. Having only 50 minute lessons is helping, but I'm hearing an increasing number of concerns from both students and staff about their mental health and stress resulting from the current regime.

I have as a result asked staff to consider within their planning over the next two weeks building up to half term, how they can create more flexibility for students by setting more pre-recorded lessons, setting work that involves their subject but gets students away from their screen, giving students the opportunity to catch up or consolidate their learning – something I know many students are starting to request.

Live lessons are not the gold standard of teaching online, in fact much of the evidence suggests the opposite, and a blended curriculum where students have a mix of live and recorded lessons is certainly preferable.

I just wanted to let parents know what I have asked of staff so that you are prepared for a more flexible approach from staff over the next two weeks. Year 11 and 13 should have a more structured approach as they will be starting new content.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I know the lockdown is equally stressful for parents and you are all doing a phenomenal job juggling work and supporting your children's learning; the number of students attending all lessons has increased from 612 to 756 in the last two weeks as a direct result of your support.

Finally, I attach information on free training sessions for Teams that are available to help parents understand the remote learning system better.

Kindest regards

Daniel Leonard
Headteacher



