



15 January 2021

Dear parents and carers

An update on lockdown learning

I hope my letter finds you well. I intend to write to you with an update on a weekly basis and this letter particularly contains some important information about your child's access to learning whether they are in school or working remotely from home.

During these unusual but temporary times, there is real importance in the **structures and routines** of each day. Thank you for all you are doing to help your child and us in this situation. I know you will be juggling your own work situation and other personal priorities on top of also trying to make sure your child engages in their school work.

Be kind to yourself. We do not expect you to become a teacher in this situation and so speak with us if you think there is more we can do to help you at home. We all really appreciate all that you are doing in this situation.

Lockdown timetable

From Monday 18 January we are introducing a new timetable for this lockdown period. It will include the following elements:

- A blend of recorded and live subject lessons.
- Daily live Form Time.
- Creative Live (a daily opportunity to engage in some enrichment learning).

You can find out more detail about *Creative Live* by seeing our promotional video on our Facebook page.

More generally, we are going to ensure there are daily updates related to lockdown learning through our Facebook page, so please follow us there.

Daily form time

All students must join daily Form Time at 12.45pm each day. This is a chance for your child to interact remotely with their peer group. This is also a Safeguarding check.

The lockdown timetable for those studying from home

For students in **Years 10 and 11** they will follow their normal school timetable while at home. For students in **Years 7, 8 and 9**, they will have *five* (not six) lessons each day posted in advance on *Satchel:One* (parents already have login details for Satchel:One and I encourage you to visit the site and look at the work being posted). In addition, there will be a live Form Time and a *Creative Live* session immediately after Form Time each day. Students can choose from one of two live activities each day.

For those students in school

I have written a separate letter to the small number of parents this applies to.

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

Webinars for parents and students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

If you have a child in years 7, 8, 9 and 10, you will have received a letter from me yesterday inviting you to a live webinar (an online briefing). It is important that you attend the one that applies to the year group your child is in, and register in advance. The registration details are in the letter sent yesterday.

- Year 10 – Tuesday 19 January at 6.00 pm
- Years 8 and 9 – Wednesday 20 January at 6.00 pm
- Year 7 – Tuesday 26 January at 6.00 pm

Webinar for Year 11

We have already held a very successful live webinar for Year 11 parents and students in the light of the cancellation of GCSE examinations in summer 2021. We are holding a further webinar on **Monday 18 January at 6.00 pm** to provide more detail on colleges and careers advice. Please make sure you and your child register for this. All Year 11 parents have already received a letter about this.

Reports to parents

In the light of lockdown, we have had to make some changes to our reporting arrangements. We have changed our reporting calendar. The next report you will get home will be **during the week starting Monday 1 February**. Due to the improved frequency of reporting and the volume of information shared, our reporting has moved to **a paperless approach**.

In order to receive a digital copy of your child's report, you will need to have signed up to *SIMS Parent* app. In addition, the app provides live attendance, achievement and behaviour information. The information can be accessed through various devices such as phones, tablets, laptops and computers. While most parents have signed up, there are still some that need to before the next report goes home later this half term. If you have any further questions about how to sign up to the SIMS parent app, please contact the school reception in the first instance.

Parents' evening

We would like to have direct contact with each parent later this half term to discuss with you how your child is doing in their work and also to hear from how we can help you at this time. So, on **Monday 8 February between 3pm and 6pm** there will be a chance for you to have a conversation with a member of staff in school about your child's learning. I will send out more information week starting Monday 25 January to inform you how to book your slot.

Parent governor election

We are in the process of recruiting to the post of *Parent Governor*. Ballot papers have already been issued to all eligible parents and carers. Due to lockdown, **we are extending the closing date by one week to Wednesday 27th January** and giving you the opportunity to return your ballot papers by email. If you choose to use this method, please take a photograph of both sides of the ballot paper and email this to **harrisonr@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk**. The photograph must include the unique reference number or your vote won't count.

I will write again next Friday. Please follow us on our Facebook page where you will see much more.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Larkin

Headteacher