



8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

May I start this letter by wishing you all a happy new year, albeit a rather different one that we had all hoped for.

We have been so pleased and grateful at the response we have seen from Year 11 and their positive attitude and commitment to their studies over this week with LIVE lessons. It is imperative that students organise their day so that they are taking advantage of the 5 live lessons per day by treating the working school week as just that. We are committed to make our LIVE lessons as near to the 'real thing' as is possible and provide your child with a valuable learning experience that will support them in making the progress towards their target grades and allow them to realise their future aspirations.

Every lesson for Year 11 is a 'live lesson'

Live lessons are compulsory for all students who are well enough to attend and registers are being taken for attendance. If your child is unwell please let us know via email or call reception as we would expect you to do if your child was in school. We are issuing praise points for attendance and contributions during the lessons and the quality of work produced.

If you are having issues with accessing the internet or live lessons through teams please let us know and we will endeavour to support you. Some families in Year 11 have already benefited from the loan of a laptop. We do have a small number of laptops left, that we can loan to families. Please email me or Mr Bishop directly on this matter so we can prioritise support.

Government statement on summer examinations

On Wednesday Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, stated that GCSE examinations would not be able to go ahead in the summer and that teacher assessments would be used to decide student grades. As I write to you today, we are awaiting further guidance on what will be needed to provide the evidence for these teacher assessments. Vocational examinations have gone ahead this month, though we await further guidance on the summer examination series. As we get further guidance we will be sharing with you in more detail. What students need to know now is that the work your child does each lesson, and in the ongoing assessments they complete, will form an important part of teacher assessments.

Assessment fortnight (25<sup>th</sup> January to February 5<sup>th</sup>)

As you know the trial examinations will not take place in school, however we do still want to recognise the revision that the year group have all been doing. To that end we will be sending out information of a timetable of shorter assessments that will take place over the fortnight from 25<sup>th</sup> January. The assessments will cover areas that students have already been asked to revise and will take place live during a TEAMS lesson. We do understand that doing assessments online will present some challenges to students and we are looking at a range of methods to support your child. We will send out to you all the necessary details in due course.



### Sixth Form applications and careers

Mr Owen also wants to reassure you that Sixth Form applications will continue as normal. The deadline for applications is still Friday January 29<sup>th</sup> and you can access the online form via the sixth form page on the website. If you would prefer to complete a paper application, email Mr Owen and he will send you one (please state if you want a hard or electronic copy)

At the beginning of February Mr Owen will be in touch to arrange for a chat about your application and this will take place by phone or through MS TEAMS, whichever is more convenient for you. If you have any questions about your application please call Mr Owen or email him at [owen.g@thecoleshillschool.org](mailto:owen.g@thecoleshillschool.org)

All Year 11 students will continue to have access to independent careers advice from Mrs Bishop, with appointments taking place over the phone or through MS TEAMS.

### Supporting your child's well-being

For your child's well-being we will be having tutor time on a Monday and Friday each week at the normal time. This will start from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January. This is a real opportunity for your child to share their thoughts and feelings with their peers and tutor about any issues they are experiencing during the lockdown. Also, a chance to gain useful support with revision and independent study at home.

Over the coming days and weeks we will be posting video assemblies, which will support you with your revision and support your well-being.

If you have any questions in regard to your child's education, as always please do not hesitate to email myself Mr Bishop at school and we will be eager to support you and your child.

[Jordan.s@thecoleshillschool.org](mailto:Jordan.s@thecoleshillschool.org)  
[Bishop.m@thecoleshillschool.org](mailto:Bishop.m@thecoleshillschool.org)

Stay safe and we will see you soon.

Kind Regards

*S Jordan*

Mr Jordan  
Assistant Headteacher

*M Bishop*

Mr Bishop  
Year Leader