



11th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are drawing to the end of a unique half term and I want to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support, feedback, constructive criticism and understanding in getting remote learning up and running. The students have been amazing too – we know that they miss school and we miss them; hopefully we can be back in the classroom before too much longer.

One issue that has become increasingly difficult as time has moved on is the reluctance of students to turn on their cameras during live lessons. This makes teaching far less effective as the member of staff is effectively talking to a black screen and cannot see students' reactions which enable us to gauge understanding.

However, most importantly, it also presents us with a safeguarding issue as we cannot ascertain whether or not the student at the other end is actually there! We have a duty of care to ensure students are present, engaging and generally 'okay' in the same way that we would if they were actually with us in the school building. This is impossible to do responsibly if we cannot see them.

Therefore, from 22nd February, we would ask that all students make themselves visible on camera at least for the first part of the lesson so that we can be assured that they are there and register them as present. They can blur their background to block out any personal surroundings. If there is a medical reason why this is not possible, then please let me or their Progress Leader know.

I will e mail students also, but it would be helpful if you could help us explain why this is so important.

Many thanks again for your help and I would like to wish you a very safe and healthy half term.

Yours faithfully
Mrs McIver-Wren
Deputy Headteacher



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