

11 February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all of the hard work, support and encouragement you have given to your children enabling them to participate in the online lessons we have run this half-term. Thank you also for the feedback, suggestions and thanks you have sent into the school. We are so proud of the way our students have adapted to the current situation and I am very aware of the vital role you have all played in making this happen.

We hope you enjoy Weald wellbeing day tomorrow and that it will allow you to prepare for a restful and relaxing half-term break. I am looking forward to seeing some pictures of what you all get up to after the break. Maybe some of you will be tempted to have a go at the Booky Bake Off, pulled together by our wonderful librarian Mrs Quinnell. The details are attached to this message.

We return to online school on Monday 22 February, with form time and lessons as timetabled. I am sure you will also have 22 February in mind as this is the date when the Prime Minister has said he will announce the roadmap out of lockdown, more particularly for us the dates and ways in which schools will be able to open their doors again. We will, of course, share what this means for the Weald community as soon as we are able to. The leadership team at Weald usually meet on a Monday afternoon, but we have moved this meeting to Tuesday 23 February in order to respond to the announcement from the previous day. We hope to be able to share outline plans with you on Wednesday 24 February, depending upon the information that is released.

I am sorry not to be in a position to give you a clearer idea of what is likely to happen in relation to schools, and I am aware you will have the same questions we do; when will schools re-open? Will all students be back at the same time? What is happening with lateral flow testing? Will there be additional social distancing measures in place? Will the school day be extended? Will the summer term be extended? How will grades be awarded for year 11 and 13 students at the end of the year? We are hoping to be able to answer most of these once the Prime Minister has announced the government's plans.

We have sent out food vouchers to all families who need them over the half-term break and into next term. If your family circumstances have changed and you need our support, please do make contact via school@wealdgs.org. This is in relation to food vouchers, access to IT equipment, access to data, or indeed any other issue which is impacting your child's ability to participate and get the best from the online learning we are offering. As we have said before, we are here to help and are determined that no parent or carer should be anxious about feeding their child or providing the equipment or access they need to attend online school.

I would like to end with a thank you to the staff at Weald who have worked tirelessly to ensure our students have the very best possible opportunity to learn and progress in the current circumstances, from the teachers delivering daily lessons, the staff making contact with students who need a little additional support, the staff supervising the key worker provision on site to the admin, facilities and IT teams who are keeping us all up and running. I feel exceptionally lucky to be leading such a dedicated team of staff, who are all working together to support our wonderful, amazing and resilient young people.

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Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust

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I will be in contact again after half-term, in the meantime I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bone', written in a cursive style.

Mrs E Bone
Headteacher