



# THE WHITSTABLE SCHOOL

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6 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The lockdown announced on Monday evening has brought some clarity around arrangements for school for the weeks up to February half term. I appreciate that the frequent changes announced by the government have caused anxiety for both students and parents.

We now know that public examinations for Year 11 and 13 scheduled for the summer will not take place. We await further details from the government as to how students are going to be fairly assessed and receive the grades that they deserve. Once we are clear on these new arrangements we will write to you explaining how this will affect your child.

Mrs Brown will communicate arrangements for the January BTEC examinations with individual families.

It is expected by the government that all students classed as vulnerable will attend school as normal. The government guidance also states that children with at least one parent or carer who is [listed as a critical worker](#) are eligible for a school place. We will notify parents/ carers of vulnerable students separately to explain the expectations about attending and engaging with school. For children of critical workers please let the school know as soon as possible as to your needs.

For the majority of students the next few weeks will be spent at home engaged in remote learning. As a school, we have prioritised pre-recorded lessons using the platform Loom. This has many advantages; pupils can work at their own pace, lessons can be watched as many times as required and pupils can access the materials through Google Classroom at any time. We believe the video lessons produced by our teachers are excellent quality and the daily assignments set by teachers follow each pupil's usual timetable.

Over the next few weeks, we will be evolving our home school offer and will begin to trial some live teaching to complement pre-recorded lessons. This will commence with Years 11, 12 and 13 from next week. Further details regarding this for Years 11, 12 and 13 will be sent out to parents on Friday along with arrangements for forthcoming mock examinations.

Yours faithfully

Mrs AM Gibson  
Headteacher

Mr S Scales  
Deputy Headteacher



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