

KWR/SBA

29th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It's been an interesting first few weeks of the new term, as we find ourselves once again in Lockdown and engaging in remote learning. Thanks to additional resource from the DfE we have been fortunate enough to receive and distribute a number of dongles and 98 laptops to students whose families had no IT access. We have also secured a further 40 laptops from one of our TeachFirst partner charities, which will be distributed over the coming week. This will have a huge impact on students who have been struggling to engage in any online learning at all, due to having no access via mobile or WIFI at home.

We really appreciate your support with the challenges of home-learning, day-to-day in a busy household. We know how complex it can be to juggle so many and varied things at the same time, indeed a lot of our staff are teaching whilst home-schooling too! Your positive feedback has been very much appreciated by teachers and the pastoral/support teams alike; who are all working incredibly hard to try to provide the best opportunities online they can to enable your child/ren to *be the best they can be*.

Our Lateral Flow Testing Centre is now operational in school and we are testing all members of staff on site at least once a week, and students once a week, if we have received appropriate consent to do so (City-wide secondary agreement based on local PHE advice). Trained teaching and teaching support personnel currently run the test centre and it is to this end that I am writing to you particularly this week.

We are looking for volunteers who already have enhanced DBS disclosure who are available one morning/week to support us in the Lateral Flow Testing Centre. If you are interested you would need to be over 18 years of age, available after half term on at least one regular morning each week and be able to complete the online training package to earn the certification required to take on one of the available roles. These are not paid positions unfortunately, but if sufficient parent/family volunteers are forthcoming, I will be able to release staff from this responsibility to support students with their learning, rather than completing these additional alternative roles during the school day. Please contact the school directly if you are interested.

Next week is National Mental Health and Wellbeing Week. We have an afternoon of various activities planned for students and hopefully some parents and families to join in with, away from screen-based learning. It is an opportunity, weather permitting, to get out and about in the fresh air and do something more active, or just something different to sitting in front of an electronic device. We will send out further details, about the opportunities available and the activities we are encouraging you to try, at the start of next week.

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Finally, if your child/ren is/are still finding it difficult to access remote learning, for whatever reason, please do get in touch with us at school, so that we can organise appropriate materials to send home to you, which will support the curriculum being delivered by staff online. Access to books and paper, pens and pencils is crucial and we need to do all we can, working together, to enable everyone to engage with learning to the best of their ability through whatever medium.

I hope you and your families are managing to stay safe and well. All local updates relating to the current Covid19 Lockdown are available on the Coventry City Council website:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/1/council_and_democracy/3551/covid-19_coronavirus/3

and we will do our best, as always, to keep you updated with the situation as and when things change.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K. Wright
Headteacher