

Dear parents,

I hope that you have all had a good week and that your child is getting into a good routine with home learning. I have a few updates for you below.

### **Remote learning**

Attendance at live lessons has been fantastic. We have run live lessons for all examination year groups, Years 10-13. I said that we had hoped to expand this to all year groups as soon as possible. We feel that we need one more week of live lessons just with examination year groups and then we will start live lessons for Years 7-9 the following week (week beginning Monday 18 January). On Frog, there will also be assemblies and PSHE activities for students.

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Years 7, 8 and 9</b>	<b>Years 10,11, 12 and 13</b>
11 January	Work on Frog: PowerPoints with teacher explanations	Live lessons on Teams
18 January	Live lessons on Teams for maths, English and science Work on Frog for all other subjects	
25 January	Work on Frog for maths, English and science Live lessons on Teams for all other subjects	
1 February	Live lessons on Teams for maths, English and science Work on Frog for all other subjects	
8 February	Work on Frog for maths, English and science Live lessons on Teams for all other subjects	
15 February	Half Term	

If your child is struggling to access the work due to a lack of technology/internet/data at home then can you please get in touch with their Head of Year and we may be able to help:

- Year 7: [s.barrett@macademy.org.uk](mailto:s.barrett@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 8: [l.jones@macademy.org.uk](mailto:l.jones@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 9: [c.ball@macademy.org.uk](mailto:c.ball@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 10: [h.richardson@macademy.org.uk](mailto:h.richardson@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 11: [s.baker@macademy.org.uk](mailto:s.baker@macademy.org.uk)

### **Year 11 and Year 13 examinations**

I am sure you have seen the announcement that the summer examinations for GCSE and A level have been cancelled. All that we currently know is that students will be awarded a centre assessed grade. We are not expecting to know the exact details of what this will entail for a few weeks. As soon as I know any more, I will be in touch with you and with the students. For us, it is business as usual for us with Year 11 and 13 in terms of their

lessons and work; I have been very impressed with their maturity in what is an uncertain time for them.

At this stage of the year, we would usually be working with Year 13 to finalise their plans for life after Macmillan and we would be working with Year 11 on their future plans. I know that the Post 16 team are in regular contact with Year 13 and we will send more details to Year 11 soon.

### **Testing**

It was announced just before the Christmas break that Rapid Testing would take place in secondary schools and colleges from January. The idea behind this testing is to identify staff and students who don't have COVID symptoms and therefore could be carrying the virus and spreading it to others. The test being used is the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, which produce a result without the need for a laboratory.

When the initial information came out to schools on this, the intention was for all students to be returning in January and the testing had 3 components:

- I. Testing as many students as possible on their return from the Christmas break.
- II. Carrying out weekly testing of staff
- III. Offering a daily test to students and staff for 7 days who have been identified as a close contact to a positive COVID case as an alternative to self isolation (as long as they do not live with the person who has tested positive).

Obviously there are now far fewer students in the building than was initially planned in December but we have been advised to continue our plans to set up a testing facility on site.

Our test kits and other related equipment arrived on Monday and the blue sports hall has been turned into our testing facility. We have begun the weekly testing of staff and intend to offer students who are currently accessing on-site provision the option of testing as well. Rather than an on-going weekly test it is recommended that they receive 2 initial tests spaced 3 days apart and then be offered the option of daily testing should they be identified as a close contact of positive cases.

This is obviously entirely optional. We will send a further email next week with frequently asked questions, a privacy notice and a consent form. We will send this to all parents (even though students aren't currently on site) so that we can begin to collate all responses.

As ever, thank you for your continued support in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs R Coning  
(Head of School)