



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now been back at school for five weeks and I want to thank you and all our students for the exemplary way in which they have conducted themselves this half term. The arrangements we have put in place to manage safety on site have been well understood by students and they have quickly adapted to new routines and settled down to work with a real sense of purpose. There is much still to be done but students can feel justly proud of the start they have made. As we approach the autumn half term holiday it is a good time to look ahead to our next steps.

Recovery Curriculum

During the national school closure students experienced different levels of disruption to their normal learning routine. We know every child's experience of Covid-19 was different and the impact of disruption to schooling may not be understood immediately. The school is building a response that is methodical, rooted in our existing schemes of work and specifications but that is focused on identifying and remedying gaps in learning. Teachers are being very clear about essential content and skills and focusing rigorously and systematically on them. Changes to exam board timelines and the requirements of syllabuses are being carefully planned for. Key to our approach is identification of gaps in prior learning; sharing curriculum expectations so that students know what their learning journey is; adjustments to schemes of work; providing additional support for students who need it; regular assessment that shapes teaching by identifying gaps in understanding and responding to them; frequent, spaced opportunities to revise and recall what has been learned and exploiting the potential of online learning. Next half term Full Reports will be issued to Years 10, 11 and 13. All other year groups will be issued with an Interim Report.

Laptops for Learning Scheme

There is an old English proverb 'It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good.' One clear benefit of our experience of working from home and teaching and learning remotely this year is that teachers and students learned to work in new ways. In particular, the benefits of technology and online learning are clear.

We have been considering for some time the benefits of switching from our traditional Faculty based model for provision of ICT to a 'kit follows the kids' approach. What has stopped this in the past is a concern about the ability safely to manage devices and web filtering so that students are protected. During the lockdown we have invested in upgraded cloud-based device management, storage and filtering systems which will enable us to do this effectively.

Before half term, all students in Years 10 to 13 will be issued with a new Dell 11" laptop with a neoprene case which fits easily in a school bag. The purpose of the laptops is to support students' learning in and out of school. The laptops are a key part of the school's recovery curriculum provision following the national school closure and our planning for any future disruption.

Your child's teachers will direct the use of the devices and will expect that all students bring them fully charged each day. The scheme is designed to provide always available student assigned devices which will be

compatible with existing school systems, and expertise, making use of tools and services which students are likely to encounter in future employment. The laptops will help us to make full use of the school's Office 365 subscription and associated online and desktop apps and digital textbooks. They will not replace traditional methods but will be an enhancement to our provision. Existing laptops held in school will now be redeployed to the Lower School learning bases.

In the event of possible future disruption to schooling, the devices and Microsoft Teams will enable the school to more easily deliver teaching and materials remotely in the knowledge that children are not competing for access to the home computer. The laptop remains the property of the school and will be loaned to the student for the remainder of their school career. There is no cost to parents and carers. This letter is accompanied by a 'Frequently asked Questions' [booklet](#). If you would like further information or support or you have any questions please email laptops4learning@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Weather

As the autumn term is now well under way, we can expect the weather to be more inclement. At lunchtime we want to encourage students to be outside in the fresh air as much as possible. Form tutors are asked to remind them to bring suitable clothing and an umbrella in case they would like to stay outside even when there is light rain! We would be grateful if you would help and support us with this.

Classroom Ventilation: The Health and Safety Executive guidance on the benefits of good ventilation in limiting the transmission of CV-19 makes clear that improved ventilation can be achieved in colder weather by periodically opening windows to circulate fresh air. As far as possible we are keeping windows open. However, when this is difficult due to poor weather, teachers will take the time at the start and end of lessons to open windows and circulate fresh air. Students should be reminded by form tutors to bring their school jumper and to wear a vest in colder weather. If necessary, teachers will allow students to wear a coat in class.

NHS Test and Trace

If you have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app you should self-isolate for 14 days from the day you were last in contact with the person who tested positive for coronavirus – as it can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear. Students should inform a member of staff if they receive a notification during the day that they had been in contact with a positive case. To support this, the notification itself will advise them that if they are under the age of 18, they should show the message to a trusted adult and self-isolate. In these circumstances it is important that you do not leave your home for any reason – if you need food or medicine, order it online or by phone, or ask friends and family to drop it off at your home. You should not have visitors in your home, including friends and family – except for essential care. You should try to avoid contact with anyone you live with as much as possible. People you live with do not need to self-isolate if you do not have symptoms and people in your support bubble do not need to self-isolate if you do not have symptoms. Full guidance from NHS Test and Trace can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

What to do if you are unwell/quarantined

Students, parents, carers or visitors, must not come to school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. Details of the procedures to follow can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>.

A letter from Public Health England about symptoms and testing can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child/letter-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child>

If a student at school presents with symptoms, then they will be looked after in isolation and parents and carers contacted to collect them. At half term you may have booked a holiday abroad. Students who have recently returned from a country included in the government's quarantine regulations should not attend school until their period of quarantine is complete.

Procedure for a confirmed COVID-19 case in school

In the event of a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result at school we will work with the DfE and Public Health England to identify close contacts of the infected person. The advice service will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate. Based on their advice, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Teachers will continue to provide tuition and learning materials remotely using Show My Homework. Close contact means

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They should get a test, and:

- if someone who is self-isolating because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) starts to feel unwell and gets a test for coronavirus themselves, and the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and should isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude to everyone in the Ecclesbourne community for your continued help and support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone or email. Please continue to follow NHS guidance and stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely



James McNamara
Head Teacher



Robert Nicoll
Head of Learning Services