



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
James McNamara BA(Hons); NPQH

Wirksworth Road, Duffield, Belper: DE56 4GS
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National School Closure Update

Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking parents and carers for their messages of support over the past few days which have been among the most eventful in my ten years as Head Teacher of The Ecclesbourne School. The phrases 'unprecedented times' and 'fast moving situation' are in danger of becoming clichés but are nonetheless true.

As ever, we will keep you informed as new information becomes available and please do contact us with questions if you need to.

Remote Learning Arrangements

During the national school closure students will receive high quality remote learning provision via Microsoft Teams and Show My Homework.

We are asking that students treat each day as a normal school day and ensure they are available at the time their scheduled lesson would normally take place to take part in a Microsoft Teams lesson or access the pre-recorded lessons and activities which are posted each day to Show My Homework. Where a lesson is not 'live' through Microsoft Teams, students should email their teachers with any questions or feedback on the work being set. All materials and Microsoft Teams sessions will be available or signposted from Show My Homework.

We have worked hard to ensure students are able to access learning on-line from home and we have provided over 850 lap-tops to students, to date. If your child is unable to access work set remotely, please contact school via email, addressing your question/request to Mr A Hardy – Director of ICT & Data. remotelearning@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk

In addition, we will also be running two virtual Assemblies each week and PDC lessons will take place weekly via SMHW. We will be asking Form Tutors to contact students once every 2 weeks to check on their progress and wellbeing.

We will seek your feedback on our provision through a fortnightly parental feedback form and will do our best to address any questions.

The school website has been updated with a Remote Learning Hub (<https://bit.ly/3hOH7h8>) to provide guidance and information on how to manage remote learning for parents, carers and students. Please find a student guide here: <https://bit.ly/3s4CMuH>

DfE Remote Learning Expectations

The school's provision will be based on the published DfE Expectations for remote learning which are as follows:



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- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects.
- Set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and as a minimum four hours' work a day, with more for those working towards formal qualifications this year.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos.
- Have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern.
- Gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks.
- Provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate.
- Enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.

BTEC Examinations

Following further guidance from the Department for Education and examination boards, we can confirm the following BTEC examinations will proceed as scheduled.

Year Group	Exam	Time/Date
11 Cambridge Nationals	Reducing the risk of sports injuries	9.00am Mon 11 January
13 BTEC Sport - Pearson	Anatomy & Physiology	9.00am Fri 15 January

The safety of our students and staff remains our priority. Therefore, examination rooms will offer greater social distancing and students may, of course, wear masks during the examination should they wish. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Examinations Office by emailing David Tanser – Director of Examinations and Assessment via dtanser@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk.

GCSE and A Level Examinations

The government yesterday confirmed that GCSE and A Level examinations will not go ahead this summer. They said: 'The department and Ofqual had already worked up a range of contingency options. While the details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching representatives, I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently.'

We await further details of their alternative arrangements and will keep you informed as soon as we know more. We want to offer our reassurance to all our parents, carers and students that we will



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not allow them to be disadvantaged by these arrangements, whatever they turn out to be. Teachers will work very hard to provide high quality remote learning for all year groups.

For Year 11 and 13 students I would also like to emphasise the importance of completing their courses so they are fully prepared for their next steps. Students should continue to prepare for their scheduled mock examinations and follow their teachers' directions about the work they need to submit for assessment. Should their return to school be delayed we will contact you in good time to amend the mock timetable. Timetables for this year's mocks will be updated on the school website in the Examinations section as needed.

Year 9 Options

We know that, even without a national school closure, 14+ GCSE Options can be a daunting time for students and parents due to the importance of the decisions being made as they can impact on a student's future study options and careers. However, I would like to reassure you that we have a robust system of support and guidance in place that will aid decision making. Students will be using Personal Development and Citizenship Time as part of their online learning to look at careers, and the subjects required, and we would welcome your support with these discussions at home.

Due to the current pandemic situation the 14+ options evening will be a virtual presentation on the school website. This will be supplemented by an options prospectus that contains details of the option process and the subjects available for your child to choose from alongside some detail on the course content and the method of assessment.

All students will receive a guidance meeting with a member of the 14+ Options team. During this time students will be able to discuss their options choices, career plans and ask any questions. They will be supported to complete an online options card which will also require a parental consent. You can book an appointment for your child's guidance meeting. You will receive an email with details of the booking process.

Further support is also available by contacting the school directly via the member of pastoral staff working with your child – contact details are available below.

The dates of the process are:

w/c 25 January	Virtual Presentation and Prospectus available on school website
5 February	Full Year 9 Report to Parents/Carers
9 and 10 February	Guidance Meeting
12 February	Options Choices Deadline



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The member of the Pastoral Team your child will be guided by:

Form	Staff Member	@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk
9B	Mrs S. Smyth	ssmyth@
9C	Mrs P. Owen-Moore	powen-moore@
9E	Mr J. Poplawski	jpoplawski@
9L	Mr D. Ingram	dingram@
9N	Mrs H. Weller	hweller@
9R	Mr M. Sellers	msellers@
9S	Mr D. Duncker-Brown	dduncker-brown@
9U	Mrs C. Ourabi	courabi@

16+ Options

The 16+ guidance process was underway before the school closure. Whether students are hoping to stay into the Sixth Form at The Ecclesbourne School or access further education, training or employment, every student should have a conversation with their member of the 16+ team. Your child's link tutor is listed below. If your child has not yet had their appointment or would like a follow-up appointment you can book one for your child. You will receive an email with details of the booking process.

Form	Staff Member	@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk
11A	Mrs C. Ourabi	courabi@
11B	Mrs H Weller	hweller@
11C	Mrs Z Farina	zfarina@
11E	Mr D. Duncker-Brown	dduncker-brown@
11J	Mr S Carnwell	scarnwell@
11L	Mrs J Earp	jearp@
11M	Mrs P Bamber	pbamber@
11N	Mrs A Bell	abell@
11R	Mr M. Sellers	msellers@
11S	Mrs V Dodson/Mrs E Stott	vdodson@ estott@
11W	Mrs C. Ourabi	courabi@



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Coronavirus Testing

The government confirmed yesterday that the testing programme for secondary schools will continue for those on site. Coronavirus testing using the rapid lateral flow test is available to staff and those students attending critical worker provision. Thank you to parents who have logged on to ParentPay to provide parental consent. Testing is not compulsory and your child may attend the critical worker provision without being tested.

Free School Meals

Parents of students in receipt of free school meals will continue to receive a voucher to the value of a £15 per week. This voucher will be delivered electronically via text or email through the Wonde system.

I hope that the above proves useful and helps to provide some much needed clarity on the changing situation we all find ourselves in. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Yours sincerely,

James McNamara

Head Teacher