

12 February 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

What a strange six-week half term! I'm glad it's over in many ways as it's feels a bit like being in limbo as we constantly wait to find out the next plan. I hope that the next time I get in touch we will know a lot more – about which year groups (if any, or all) are due to come back into school from Monday 8th March onwards.

In the meantime, I hope that you will all be lucky enough to be able to enjoy some half term and a break from home learning. We are not expecting students to continue to work through half term and we strongly recommend that they have a real break from screens as far as possible (although I accept you may risk civil war if X boxes and PlayStations are completely banned). My son number 2 is desperate to get out on his Christmas present, a new surf board, over the half term week but looking at the state of the sea in Teignmouth, it's never looked less inviting to me – I fear I'm getting old.

If you are entitled to free school meals, you should have received an email with details of the food vouchers that are being provided by Devon County (these are different from the vouchers provided by us through Edenred). Please contact the local authority if you have any queries or contact me if you can't get through.

Year 11 students should have submitted their Sixth Form choices forms. If they haven't already, please could they send this to the Sixth Form team. They need to do this even if they aren't choosing to come to TCS6 at this stage. We still want to advise and help them with their next step, post-16.

Looking ahead to the next half term, we have the Year 9 Options evening on Monday 8th March. This will be online and more details on this will be confirmed after the break. We would normally be sending reports out at the end of this term reporting on all students. As things stand, we do not want to try and make judgements on students' grades and effort levels from their remote learning. This isn't fair and could lead to inaccurate judgements. We are therefore planning to adjust our reporting calendar and to collect and send out report data in May rather than at the end of March this year. We do, however, still plan to send out written reports for Year 11 students at the end of this term. We recognise that Year 11s do not have that much school time left and deserve this feedback before the summer term.

Finally, thank you again for your support and for the many kind words of thanks staff have received. We applaud so many of you who have had very challenging times juggling jobs, child care and supporting home learning. We have also learnt a great deal about many of our students' capacities for resilient, independent and inspirational

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learning. Many of them are doing brilliantly!

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James O'Connell".

James O'Connell
Principal