

29 January 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I don't like to wish time away but I think we're probably all glad to get January over and done with. I know that I and many staff (though not all) are fortunate to be coming into school regularly and are at least still able to keep some routine and structure in our lives. My wife's been working at home solidly for a nearly a year now, like many of you, and my two adolescents at home are beginning to behave like caged tigers, though I think their house training is probably less advanced.

The latest announcement from the government on schools was not what we hoped but at least there is a will to re-open schools from 8 March, two weeks after half term. I'm afraid that we don't know any more detail on this, but I'm really hoping that we will have some if not all year groups coming back in from this point.

We have the lateral flow device testing happening efficiently and regularly in school now and the current plan is that all students whose parents allow will be tested twice in the first week of their return to school to confirm no infection, so we are likely to be able to re-start really safely.

Coming Up

A reminder that the re-scheduled Year 7 Parents' Evening is this Tuesday 2 February. Hopefully parents have managed to book appointments and the system won't fail us second time around.

Year 9 Parents' Evening is on Tuesday 9 February – letters are just going out for this. All Year 9 students have received quite a bit of information about their options choices for next year. All of the information is contained on the Year 9 Options banner on the front of our website. Students have also been emailed the link to a 'straw poll'. This needs to be completed online and submitted by 4 February. This doesn't commit them to their choices but it enables us to begin planning the best fit timetable for next year.

Remote learning

Thank you to all who completed our online learning survey. The feedback has been largely very positive and helpful. A summary of your answers is contained at the end of this letter. 70% of parents have reported that our provision is generally good or better, with 94% saying that it is reasonable or better. Students are largely adapting to working remotely much more successfully than last summer and our student engagement figures,

Principal: Mr James O'Connell

Exeter Road, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 9HZ

Tel: 01626 774091 **Visit:** www.teignmouthsecondary.co.uk

Osprey Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, number 07519656.
An exempt charity. Registered Office: Teignmouth Community School, Exeter Road, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 9HZ.



which we track weekly, are also much better than nine months ago. This is a credit to them and also due to your support as parents/carers in these difficult times, so thank you!

The single area we as staff need to be most aware of and are considering is over the quantity of work set. We will do our best to get this right but please do reassure your children that it is ok if they don't finish everything. If they are doing their best and staying engaged, well done to them. We don't want or expect our students to be working online for more than six hours in any day, and well-being comes first.

I'm also very mindful that many students are frustrated or struggling. The novelty of not being in school wore out long ago. Our welfare team are working hard to support, but please do contact them or your son/daughter's tutor or their Head of Year if you have concerns.

With this in mind, we are going to do something slightly different on the Wednesday before half term, 10 February, which we're calling 'Wellbeing Wednesday'. Over the past half term, we have all spent a lot of time glued to computer screens. This takes its toll mentally. On Wednesday 10 February we are encouraging students and staff to take a break from their computers. The day will provide an opportunity to think about learning in a different way and hopefully provide an alternative way of working. Teachers will suspend normal lessons for the day and instead set a learning activity that does not require a computer to access. The aim is to get students up and active for the day. So, this could involve creating something, cooking, code breaking, poetry inspired walks, photography challenges, etc. The day will start with a live fitness session. After that students will be free to create their own timetable for the day based on a range of suggested activities. More detail will follow, but we hope that this will provide a refreshing break from the online world.

Live PE Sessions

Together with the tutor and assembly sessions which run Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8.50, our PE team are now running live workout/warm-up sessions at 8.50 on Tuesday mornings for Years 7 and 8 and Thursday mornings for Year 9. Watch this space for sessions for Years 10 and 11.

Qualifications in 2021

The qualifications consultation period finished last Friday and we should hopefully know the way ahead on exams by the end of February. The advice to all students in Years 11, 12 and 13 at the moment is to keep working consistently through the curriculum. Results will not be based on a single assessment and are likely to not be submitted until June at the earliest. We will not be springing any exams or tests on them suddenly and will plan carefully, communicating the way ahead when this is clear.

Students in School

We now have up to 80 students coming into school regularly and are at capacity if we are also to be able to plan and run consistent learning for all those at home. Understandably, we are receiving more and more requests to have students in school but this is a really difficult balancing act. If students have the means to work at home, this is what they need to do. We recognise that many would like to come into school – which is ironically exactly what we want – but we unfortunately can't just say yes to requests unless this really is essential. Mrs Lea Carpenter continues to be the contact for booking children into school as a critical worker: lea.carpenter@teignmouth.devon.sch.uk. We do want our vulnerable students who need support to be in school where appropriate and Mrs Justine Housecroft is the contact in this respect: Justine.housecroft@teignmouth.devon.sch.uk

Year 9 and 10 Adolescent Booster Vaccinations

The Public Health Vaccination team are in school this Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 February. Please see the letter below that you should have received direct from the team if you registered for the vaccinations previously. I'm afraid that we only facilitate this process and don't have any control or part in organising the vaccinations. If you have any urgent questions about appointments or the process, the Vaccination Team direct number is 01392 610030.

Free School Meals

Vouchers from the government have been sent out to the families of students entitled to free school meals. We understand that this voucher scheme will continue after the half term. There is a different voucher system for the February half term and we will be sending out vouchers on behalf of Devon County Council for this week too. If you have queries on this front, please contact Mr Joab Forte: joab.forte@teignmouth.devon.sch.uk

I do hope that you can focus on the light at the end of this tunnel as we all look forward to the end of lockdown and some sort of normality in the next few months.

Best wishes,



James O'Connell
Principal



Dear Parent/Carer

The immunisation team will be coming to school as planned on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 February 2021.

If you have already completed a consent form for the adolescent booster (Tetanus, diphtheria, polio and Meningitis ACWY) you will be contacted by the immunisation team via email 1-2 days before with an appointment time and instructions.

If parents or carers have any queries, changes in circumstances or have had any of these vaccinations in the last 12 months please call the SPA on 0300 247 0082. Please do not call your school, contact us directly.

For those parents and carers who have not completed a consent form there will be a further opportunity later in the academic year to consent and receive the vaccine.

Your child must be brought and taken home by an adult, unless they are already in school on the day of vaccination. Due to COVID-19 restrictions your child will have to come into their appointment alone. Please ensure your child wears a mask has some drinking water with them and is wearing clothing to allow easy access to the upper arm area.

Please do not attend the session if your child or anyone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms.

Thank you
The Immunisation Team

Parent Feedback – Jan 2021

How has your child/children coped with managing their own learning during the lock down?

	Jan %
Well	28
OK	33
Fine	20
Not so well	14
Badly	5

Is your child/children getting enough feedback?

	Jan %
Yes	20
Some	53
Not enough	23
None	4

How would you rate our overall provision as a school?

	Jan %
Excellent	15
Good	55
Satisfactory	24
Unsatisfactory	5
Poor	1

In terms of how the work and learning has been communicated, has it been:

	Jan %
Easily accessible	17
Ok to find and access	56
Difficult or confusing	23
Very difficult to access	1

In terms of the quantity of work set, please tell us whether there has been:

	Jan %
Enough work	53
Not enough work	9
Too much work	34
Blanks	2

In terms of the delivery of the learning, has it been:

	Jan %
Very effective, engaging	8
Reasonably effective, engaging	54
Variable	35
Unsatisfactory	3
Blanks	0