



WYCOMBE  
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Dear Parents

I am writing to update on you on our Remote Teaching and Learning programme this term. We have been delighted by the positive response of the pupils, seen both in conversations with Housemistresses and teachers, and also very clearly in the results of the online questionnaire which the girls completed at the end of last week. Most girls appreciate the balance of live and independent work and feel that they have appropriate, good support from their teachers. Most notable has been the girls' continued desire to learn in difficult circumstances and they are an absolute credit to both you and to the wider school community. We understand that they are missing their friends a great deal and we have been so impressed by their resilience and optimism.

At the same time, we do appreciate that not everyone is finding remote learning easy and that each girl is coping with her own unique set of circumstances. We know that access to technology and wifi is not straightforward for some. We know that printing is difficult in some households. I have asked teachers to help pupils to find ways around these problems and to make sure that girls are given extensions, if they need them, to complete work. We want to encourage pupils to continue to do some handwritten work, as well as worked typed on a computer. Most girls are now comfortable with the various platforms being used for setting and submitting work, but if your daughter is still unsure, she need only ask her teachers.

Some pupils have been rushing through the work set. There is plenty of extension work available for each subject on MyWycombe and teachers will always be happy to provide more, if required. Other girls are finding that their workload is too great. We are more than willing to look at ways of adapting an individual's programme to enable her to have a better balance; please contact your daughter's Housemistress if you would like to discuss this. Teachers have been asked to make very clear to pupils what is essential work and what is additional work to be completed if they have time. We will continue to review the work set to ensure we strike the correct balance with this online provision. We do not expect girls to work unreasonable hours and we would encourage them to contact their teachers directly if they are finding the workload unmanageable in order for us to support as most appropriate.

Most girls are working very responsibly. We are aware of one or two who (understandably) find it harder to concentrate in the home environment; it is very



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difficult for teachers to monitor behaviour remotely. We have encountered a few instances of pupils arranging video calls with their friends during live lessons on apps such as Houseparty and Whatsapp and this has disrupted other pupils. Teachers may ask pupils to keep their video cameras on during live lessons so that they can see better what pupils are doing; pupils can choose to blur their backgrounds, or to put up a different background, so that they can be seen on screen, but the surrounding environment cannot. Whilst we fully understand that you will not be able to monitor your daughter throughout the day, any reminders you can give to help keep her on task would be helpful.

I will write to you again soon with a revised schedule for parent-teacher meetings, assessments and reports for the term. In the meantime, I would like to thank you sincerely for the support that you are giving the School in these very difficult times, when you are all busy yourselves. I am extremely grateful, too, to my colleagues for their adaptability and enthusiasm in setting up online learning. I know that how much they are enjoying seeing the girls for lessons, even if only on a screen.

I wish you a relaxing Short Leave weekend.

Very best wishes

Emily Boswell  
Deputy Head (Academic)