



Eastbury Community School

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Wednesday 20th January 2021

Dear Parent and Carers,

Hope this letter finds you and your family well, and lockdown is not proving to be too stressful.

We are in week three of lockdown, and remote learning is in full swing. Remote learning is very different from face-to-face learning, for both pupils and teachers, and we need to ensure that a range of learning activities are in place to support this difference. Spending 5 hours a day in front of a screen is not healthy for anyone, physically or mentally, so teachers are working on providing tasks that can be completed away from the screen. If parents/carers could also encourage their children to take breaks from the screen and take some physical exercise this would support mental and physical wellbeing.

Remote learning and lockdown bring additional pressures and stresses to every household, so please get in touch with your son/daughter's form tutor or Head of Year if you have specific concerns, and they will do their best to provide the support that is needed, or to direct you in the right direction. This link also provides some tips to help parents/carers get through this difficult time: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmyc>

School is open for the pupils of critical workers and those pupils who are vulnerable. If your son/daughter is in either of these categories, please email me and let me know when they are coming in and whether you are a critical worker. scl@eastbury.bardaglea.org.uk. We would urge those pupils who are coming into school to have a negative PCR test (COVID test) before coming in, as this helps us to keep the school as safe as possible. All staff are taking weekly tests for the same reason.

For those parents/carers of pupils in Years 11+13 the method in which grades are going to be awarded for this year's GCSE and A Levels has yet to be confirmed. There is a consultation document that has been sent out by the Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>, as a school we will be responding, and you may find it helpful to see what is being considered, and respond if you want to have your views taken into account. In the meantime, we are doing everything we can to support pupils at this anxious time. As soon as an announcement is made on how grades are going to be awarded, I will update you immediately.

Take care and stay safe.

SJ Collins



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Sharon Collins
Head of Secondary