

Dear students, parents and carers

### **Fairfield Live! Update 2: January 22 2021**

Well done everyone on a really good week of online learning - we seem to have (mostly) ironed out the issues from last week and attendance has once again been very good. Staff have enjoyed talking with some of you on the phone and any worries have been passed on to appropriate teachers and support staff for you if needed. We are continuing to catch up with everyone on the phone next week; if we can't get hold of you we will email to arrange a time.

This lockdown has been different from the last one in several respects, not least the increase in the number of lessons we are teaching, and the additional work expected. I know that some students and parents/carers have been a bit surprised by this; we do have minimum expectations for remote learning placed on us by the government, but more importantly we are determined to reduce any damage to our children's learning and progress by trying to keep them engaged and focused on their schoolwork. All students should be attending their online lessons and then following their in-school timetable to complete tasks for each of the subjects that day. Tasks should take Key Stage 3 students between 30 and 40 minutes if they are designed for one lesson; Key Stage 4 may find they have longer assignments that span several lessons. It's important to have a break from screens and try to get some fresh air too - don't forget on a normal day at Fairfield you are usually outside between every lesson!

If there is a problem with completing work for any reason, please let staff know; the easiest way for students to do this is to email via Google Classroom and ask for help. Parents and carers can use the admin email address if its easier. You can also look at similar topic areas on BBC online lessons or the Oak Academy to give you some additional information. Online learning is not always easy, but it is also helping you learn important life skills such as being organised, timekeeping, finding solutions, being resilient and working independently.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team and I are in school every day; we have fewer office staff in, so whilst we are able to be contacted by phone, the 'admin' email address is the most effective for a rapid response!

I hope you are all keeping safe and in good health.

Best wishes

Sue Gaston  
Head Teacher