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Fairfield Live! Update February 12th 2021

Dear students, parents and carers

Congratulations to you all on completing a whole half term of online learning and home schooling! Attendance has been very good again this week and I hope that most students are up to date with their work and can have a proper rest over half term. A few of you still have a little bit to do; you need to focus on the staff suggestions for what to complete and then have a complete break too.

Everyone should receive a letter in the post in the next few days with a report showing our assessment of your online learning, the effort you have put in and the quality of your work. Some subjects have also sent home resources which will be needed after half term; not everyone will have these, and they are not for every subject. The office have carefully collated all the material over the past two days, but 530 envelopes are a lot to fill, so if your classmate has something you don't have, let us know!

Last night we held an online staff meeting where teachers shared good practice and we all learned some new techniques to use in online lessons. Some teachers have tried them out today! We are constantly trying to improve what we offer; we know that online learning can mean a lot of screen time and we are trying find ways to make that as interactive as possible, whilst still being manageable. I am so grateful to **everyone at Fairfield** for all the time and effort they have put in over this half term – in lessons, on the phone and emails, whether teaching, dealing with queries, setting up online classes or equipment, maintaining and cleaning the site or supporting students' mental health and well-being in more ways than I care to count. Your positive email shave meant a great deal to us and it's good to know we are helping to make home schooling a bit more manageable.

Mr Lloyd talked to Year 9 students about their option choices for Key Stage 4 this week; this process is at a **very** early stage and no one's choices are yet fixed. Every student will have an individual interview with a senior member of staff to talk about possible option combinations, and we will seek the views of parents and carers before anything is definitely agreed. Please talk to your child about their future plans and think carefully about what might be needed in five years' time – it is very important that students enjoy their studies, but they also need to think ahead. Subjects which seem a bit more difficult now might prove to be very useful later! It is worth doing some internet research on possible career choices, training courses, apprenticeships and further or higher education. Check out the Careers area on our website ('About' then 'Careers') – there are lots of suggestions there and careers websites to explore. Why wait til Year 9? It's always good to have an idea of the direction you want to go in and I'm sure everyone can find time to do that next week.

Have a great break – we look forward to a new half term and hopefully we will all be back in school before long.

Sue Gaston
Headteacher