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29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers – **Update from the Head, Friday 29th January**

The swirling media speculation about the wider re-opening of schools has finally abated with the government announcing an **earliest possible re-start date of Monday 8th March**. With so much uncertainty around this date I think that it is much more helpful for us to maintain a clear focus on the next two weeks, and to look forward to the half-term break. There will be plenty more water under the bridge by that point I am sure!

Thank you, very much, for taking the time to complete our **remote learning survey**. It was immensely encouraging to see that your positive communication and feedback received over the past four weeks was mirrored by the survey with **95% of you satisfied** by the quality of remote learning, the structure of the day and how accessible the work is. We will undertake a more thorough review of comments and look to clarify some points on student feedback so that we can maintain this heartening forward momentum over these next two weeks.

A number of you mentioned that a change of routine and pace, once in a while, would be beneficial. Therefore, we will be using **Thursday February 4th as a consolidation and catch-up day**. There will be **no 'Live' learning** on this day and ClassCharts will be used to set out the essential work that should have been completed. Thursday will also provide some additional time for students to practice their burpee technique, ready to submit their results for the last day of House sports on Friday!

We were delighted by your engagement and feedback from our **Year 8 Parents' Evening** on Wednesday. The online video calls are proving to be a convenient, reliable and safe replacement for our usual in-school meetings and, as always, it was a pleasure to speak with so many of you.

One of the recurring themes from so many of you has been the reassuring communication and endless encouragement provided by our wonderful support staff who have been in school over the past month. They have ensured a constant flow of information between home and school, been available (as always) to answer your queries and help ensure students have all the resources they need, as well as providing nearly 50 vulnerable and critical worker children with support and regular access to learning. Again, we really appreciate your feedback and support.

Details of a couple of forthcoming online events that may be of interest are attached: **Weymouth College** have their **Virtual Open Day** on Tuesday 2nd February from 5.30pm. Students can register in advance by visiting the link on the attached flyer to find out about the many curriculum areas, student views and panels of staff answering questions, and **Yeovil College** are running a service sector subjects week from 1st - 7th February.

As January, finally, draws to a close I wish you all a restful weekend.

Mr Hales

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