



### Update on Our Offer

18/01/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families continue to be well and I hope our students are beginning to adapt to the temporary 'new norm' of learning remotely. Since my last update to all parents on the 5<sup>th</sup> January there have been numerous updates from the Department for Education, Ofsted and Ofqual. For each and every update we have spent time planning how to respond with our students at the heart of our decision making. We will continue to write to parents and carers of Y11 and 13 students separately to ensure they are kept up to date with any developments linked to exams.

I write to you now regarding developments to our offer following the most up to date information from the Department for Education and Ofsted. We always have and always will use the information we receive to support, but not define our strategic direction. Our strategic direction rests on marrying this information with our core values and our aim for 'excellence'. With this in mind I hope the developments below are positively received by both you and your child. If you do have any further questions or concerns having read the details that follow, please contact the named person.

#### **Key Stage 3 Remote Learning Offer:**

The government guidance originally asked schools to put their resources into exam year groups. Since exams have been cancelled and the staggered start to the term has been delayed until after February half term, the guidance now asks schools to develop their key stage 3 offer. From this week we will be providing an enhanced offer to key stage 3 students. This will see students being taught remotely in an increased variety of ways, including pre-recorded lessons via Loom and live lessons through Google Meet. Our teachers know their classes and understand what each group will respond better to.

We have classes who would excel in live lessons because of the dynamics of the group and other classes who would respond better to pre-recorded lessons so they can pause the lesson, rewind and digest the learning being delivered. The Department for Education recently provided information to schools stating that live lessons are not always the most effective means of learning. We know that the people who will know what is best for the students are the teachers who teach them. Miss Gordon our Vice Principal is available to provide individual support for any student who is struggling to access remote learning or those requiring guidance on how to use Google Meet or Loom. Please do get in touch with Miss Gordon if needed.

#### **Bringing our school ethos to your child at home:**

This week would have seen all students returning to school within the blueprint of our offer. Now that this is not the case we want to do as much as we can to ensure the children under our care continue to feel part of our school community. We will be delivering weekly whole school assemblies to all year groups, every Monday from 8:55 – 9:10am. This will be done through Loom and sent to each year group's Google Classroom. These assemblies will be delivered by our Directors of Learning and Senior Leaders. They will focus on our core values and topics that we hope will motivate and engage our students. The first weekly assembly will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 8:55am.

### **Further support for student well-being:**

In addition to the individualised support we offer through our Pastoral Team, Well-Being Team and Inclusion Team we will be providing students with the chance to see their friends on a weekly basis. Every Thursday your child's Learning Manager will host a Form Time Session from 8:50 – 9:05am. This is a chance for your child to see their friends, talk to their Learning Manager and share their remote learning stories. This will be done through Google Meet and we strongly encourage your child to have their camera and microphone on so they can interact with their friends and over time, prevent students from feeling isolated at home. If your child does not attend these sessions their Learning Manager will contact home to check in with them and discuss their remote learning. If your child is accessing paper-based learning and is able to join for Form Time Session through a device like a mobile phone please encourage them to do so.

Mr Hartley our Assistant Principal is available should you have any queries regarding the weekly assemblies or weekly Form Time Sessions.

### **Pupil Premium:**

If any of our pupil premium students are running low on stationery such as pens, pencils, lined and/or plain paper, or require any other stationery or equipment to help them work remotely, please contact the year group PSA who will be happy to help.

### **Our Testing Centre:**

Over the past 2 weeks we have built and staffed our testing centre for the lateral flow testing of our students and staff. This week we will start testing our on-site staff, students attending our in-school offer and those identified as 'close contacts' of any positive confirmed cases of COVID-19 attending our in-school offer. It is the parent and child's choice to be tested. Mr Dakers, our Assistant Principal, will be sending a letter to all parents and carers of students attending our in-school offer with further details and a consent form.

At George Spencer Academy we will continue to evolve and adapt throughout these ever-changing times and we sincerely thank you for the strong partnership you continue to provide through your feedback and support. It is truly appreciated by all our staff.

Kindest regards and take care.

Mrs H Corbett  
Principal