



THE
GARIBALDI
SCHOOL

29th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

As always, I hope this letter finds you all well and that you are all looking after your own mental and physical health during this lockdown period?

Thank you for all of the kind words we continue to receive and the feedback you give. As always, we do listen and use this to shape our thinking. I thought I would write with a few brief updates, now they have been received, as well as some updated school information.

Firstly, I want to say a really huge well done to all students. Attendance to online lessons has been fantastic and the students have been an absolute credit. The quality of work produced and participation in lessons have been positively noted by staff. It is really important that students attend timetabled lessons and complete the work set. Although we are delivering it differently, students are following their usual curriculum and I want students to keep as up to date as possible to ensure they do not fall behind.

The 'Hall of Fame', on our website will be updated soon in recognition of students who have been nominated by subject teachers and mentors for outstanding attitudes to learning and quality of work produced over the last few weeks. These can be found on the year group pages of our website. Pin badges will also be posted out to students recognised for demonstrating outstanding ATL, Progress and Attendance from term one.

We have provided a range of hardware, software, internet access, data SIM cards and peripherals to link to games machines to enable students to participate in online learning. We have tried to think of every angle to ensure students can get online. If you still have issues with accessing computers or the internet, please make contact and we will see how we can help.

Thank you to everyone who has filled out the survey so far on access to technology. We will soon be analysing the results of this to help shape and refine our provision further. If you still wish to complete this survey then please find the link to access it here: <https://bit.ly/3ptz8sU>

In addition to the parent survey, students will be undertaking a survey during a lesson over the coming days so we can gather information from them on their views of the remote provision so far. Staff and students are becoming much more confident in this new world of virtual learning; we will strive to continually improve this provision and look to how we can embed elements of it further into our curriculum, once the lockdown and pandemic subsides.

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The Prime Minister announced on Tuesday, that schools would not re-open to students until Monday 8th March at the earliest. Further information will be announced after the half term. This means that our remote provision will continue after the half term holiday for at least the first two weeks.

As a result of this, on Monday 1st March, we are going to reshape the format of the day slightly, just for this day. Students will be sent a pack of work home in the post, focussing on personal development, health and wellbeing. This will enable mentors to have a 9 minute 1:1 appointment with parents and students, throughout the day. Mr Dawson will provide further details in the near future.

Our keyworker provision will not be open over the half term holidays but will resume on the 22nd February. You do not need to re-register if you have used this provision already. If you wish to use the provision and meet the criteria, please contact the main school reception. This facility should only be used where no other provision can be made.

The Government consultation for the awarding of GCSEs and A Levels closes this week. We do not have any further information on what this looks like or how students will receive their grades and will not until the consultation has been closed and analysed. I appreciate the anxiety this causes for students and parents but please rest assured as soon as I know, I will pass this on. I wish I could provide more reassurance on this but I really do not want to speculate.

Our annual Options Evening will be held on Tuesday 2nd February, to provide guidance, information and support for parents and students in Year 9, on choosing their options in readiness for Year 10 study. Details have already been sent to parents along with an information booklet on the process. If you have not received this or require further information on the live event, please visit the dedicated page on our website <https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/page.php?p=options> or contact the school office.

I would advise students to keep checking in to the wellbeing page on teams. This contains advice and guidance on a range of health and safety, safeguarding and mental health and wellbeing topics which students may find of use.

Please take good care of yourself and I look forward to hopefully seeing you in person soon.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Aldred', written over a horizontal line.

Mr J Aldred
Head of School