



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Challenge • Support • Flourish

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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well at this time and I regret starting the New Year with messages regarding lockdowns and school closures. You will no doubt be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday evening and the intention for schools to move to remote learning from today. This is not good news for education but I, like everyone else, hope it will help to lower the transmission rate as much as possible. Also, like everyone else, I hope the vaccine roll out will increase rapidly allowing us to finally get our lives back to normal. As things currently stand, on-site provision will only be available to children of key workers and vulnerable students. These students will access the same work/lessons being delivered to everyone else who will be working from home. This will likely be the case until at least the 12th February – the last day of this half-term.

We have strived to improve our online offer considerably compared to when we first went into lockdown in March last year. Our teaching staff have had time and training in using many new applications and software packages, especially 'Google Classroom' in an effort to ensure better online contact and direct instruction to all of our students. Should there be any issues or concerns, please get in touch and we will do all we can to resolve any problems. Mr Dolly has asked that I include the following information in this letter:

Instructions for all lessons will be posted on Class Charts. If students need their Class Charts code re-issuing, please contact admin@range.sefton.sch.uk

Due to the unprecedented national demand on learning platforms like Class Charts, there have been some inevitable issues. Please ask your son/daughter to be patient and not to worry if a site is temporarily down. Teachers will know that this is the case and issues will hopefully be rectified quickly. If a problem persists for any length of time, please let your teacher know and we will investigate.

We are aiming to offer as many online 'live' lessons as possible. This will usually involve a live portion of time with teacher input. For this reason, we ask that students do their lessons by following their timetable as if they were in school. This week is a week 2 on the school timetable. If a lesson is live, this will be communicated on Class Charts and they will need to access the lesson via their Google Classroom. There will usually be a 'Google Meet' link on the front page of most classrooms. Please note, in the event of a teacher being ill or unavailable, the lesson will not be live but work will be set.

If students log in to their Google Classroom via the school VLE and using their school Google account this will help to avoid any issues.

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To our students in Year 11 and Y13; it would seem that your exams will not be going ahead as planned this year. I have personally raised this with you as a possibility earlier in the academic year but I appreciate it may now be causing you upset or worry. Ofqual are now working with the government to establish a new system of grading this year. No doubt, this will take time so please be patient and please do not worry. My advice is to continue to work with your teachers including the remote sessions and online tasks. I will get information regarding the new grading system to you as soon as I know more. Please remember, this also happened to last year's cohort and although not ideal, the vast majority of our students got the grades they deserved and required to be able to access the next stage of their education both at GCSE and A-Level/BTec. As I write, the BTec exams scheduled for this week and next are going ahead so please come into school as advised and as per your exam timetable. There seems to be an on-going debate as to whether these exams will be cancelled, if they are, we will be in touch but for now, please assume that everything remains as planned.

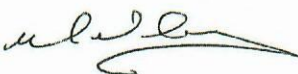
For those families who are entitled to Free School Meals, Mr Pritchard will be in touch in the next day or so to advise how this will operate. We have also been advised that the school bus service will continue as normal for this week for key worker children. If this changes, again, Mr Pritchard will be in touch.

We were in the process of setting up a testing system in school like most other secondary providers in the country. Unfortunately, I have had to cancel training events for the volunteers who were going to do the testing so this facility will not be available in the time scale I had hoped for. As we now have far fewer people in school, social distancing is easier to achieve. Please stress the importance of distancing, of wearing a face covering and of hand sanitising if your child is in school in the coming weeks. These measures are vital to ensure all of us who are in school are as safe as possible.

There is a lot of information coming from a number of sources. I will endeavour, as always, to keep you informed as I appreciate this will be an anxious time for many people and for different reasons. Please be assured that we will do all that we can here at Range to support your son/daughter as best we can during this period. Do get in touch if you have any questions or queries.

Best wishes to all of you for a healthy and happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr McGarry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr McGarry
Headteacher