



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Challenge • Support • Flourish

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

1st February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As always, I hope you and your families are well at this time.

Thank you for your ongoing support and positive feedback in relation to our remote learning. The vast majority of the students are engaged and focused which hopefully will mean that staying up to speed with their education should be easier than it was during last year's period of lockdown. When school does re-open, we will of course do all we can to help and support any students who have fallen behind. Please note that school will be closed to all students during the February half-term break including the children of key workers. For families who are entitled to free school meals, Mr Pritchard will be in touch with details of the voucher scheme that ran in previous holiday periods, we are awaiting final confirmation from the Local Authority.

This week is mental health awareness week and we are promoting the importance of positive mental health in tutor time and in lessons. Our website features a range of resources and ideas encouraging all to take some time to focus on our personal wellbeing, please encourage your children to access some of these resources. On Wednesday, 10th February we are encouraging all of our students to consider their 'screen time' and how much of their lives they spend on electronic devices. If my own children are anything to go by, 'too much' is the answer! Therefore on the afternoon of 10th February, we will not be running online lessons but rather setting a short video-presentation to watch and then suggesting a series of activities to do as part of a 'wellbeing Wednesday' initiative. Mr Cregeen will be giving further information and guidance throughout the week. I would encourage everyone to actively pursue some of the suggested activities- why not get involved yourself if you can make the time?

Thank you to all of our parents who have accessed and used our new Cloud based system at recent parent evenings. Inevitably there have been a few teething problems but largely the feedback has been excellent. We will continue to use this system for the rest of this year at least. Please contact Mrs Taylor or Mrs Phillips at school if you have any further questions.

We have posted information and will continue to speak to students in Year 9 in relation to GCSE options during the next two weeks. Similarly, students in Y11 have had a lot of information and will have taster sessions during this fortnight in relation to applications to the Sixth Form. Do please take the time to read through all of the information and do get in touch if you have any questions or queries.

We continue to await further guidance in relation to this year's public examinations. The DfE and Ofqual's consultation closed on Friday, 29th January so we will write separately to families in Y11/Y13 when we have further details. In the meantime, it's crucial to stay focused and positive. Attendance at and engagement with remote learning is vital to ensure that we have the best possible assessment information which will be required in the grades awarding process later in the year.

Lateral flow testing continues in school. If the 8th March is confirmed for all students to return, we may well offer testing in school in the week beforehand for students due to return. This offer will be made to students who have signed up for testing and we will send out details relating to times/days nearer the time. This will be linked to the government announcement relating to schools re-opening. Do please remember that lateral flow testing is available to everyone, without appointments, at Aintree racecourse, Bootle leisure centre and Splashworld, Southport.

We will as usual publish our half-termly newsletter next week. If you would like to share anything with us, either for our twitter feed or for the newsletter, please drop us a line at: newsletter@range.sefton.sch.uk

Not that we can travel far or do much but I wish all of you a restful half-term break when it arrives. I encourage, again, all of our young people to really consider their 'screen time' and to try and focus on other activities to help them actively engage, mentally and physically away from electronic gadgets!

With very best wishes,



Mr McGarry
Headteacher