



**The South Wolds  
Academy  
and Sixth Form**

20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all as well as can be expected. May I begin with a huge thank you to all of you for your continued support during these times. The messages we are receiving are wonderful and gratefully received.

**Remote education**

Your child will I am sure be some way to mastering their home education and again I thank you all for your support in helping your child to study as best they can remotely. We do appreciate that everyone is trying their best and staff continue to work hard to engage with every child. The remote learning offer is on our website and also we are increasing the number of live lessons for every year group – teachers will share individual times with every class at the start of each week to identify the live lesson offer for that specific week, to help your child to get organised and ready to learn. These will also continue to be supplemented by asynchronous teaching, as ever, all resources and instructions can be found on Google Classroom.

Staff are available during their timetabled lessons to respond to student questions during the lesson time, so please can you continue to support the school by ensuring your child is out of bed, dressed and ready to get going in line with the usual timetabled day. This fosters good study habits and helps build routines and resilience. Attached are our expectations of students in terms of their learning at the moment and as ever I would be grateful of your support by sharing these with your child to help them understand what is expected. Additionally, we have built in a catch-up period every week for students, where no work will be set for one hour so that they can review tasks that have yet to be completed, act on previous feedback given by their teachers and ensure they are up to date. These will occur as follows:

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 9.10am
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 9.10am
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 9.10am
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 9.10am

We are under no illusion that some students may not be as on top of their learning: if you are finding it difficult to get your child to engage with the activities set or if each lesson has become a battle, please do not hesitate to make contact with your child’s class teacher or with the year group team. They would be able to chat through some strategies with you.

As a reminder, the school day timings are as follows:

|      |       |                        |
|------|-------|------------------------|
| Pd 1 | 9.10  | All years              |
| Pd2  | 10.10 | All years              |
| Pd3  | 11.30 | All years              |
| Pd 4 | 12.40 | Year 8, 9, 11, 12 & 13 |
|      | 1.10  | Year 7 and 10          |
| P5   | 2.10  | All years              |

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Sarah Brooks B.Sc (Hons) and Carol Shardlow B.Eng (Hons)  
Deputy Head Teachers



### **Year 9 Parents' Evening**

In light of the current situation I have made an adjustment to the Year 9 Parents' Evening, which is still scheduled to run on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. To support teaching staff to manage their screen time on that day, any colleagues who are involved in the event will pause their teaching at the end of period 3 on that day. The event itself will be run from 2pm until 5pm online, and details of the booking system will be shared with Year 9 parents and carers in the usual way.

### **IT access from home**

Please continue to contact school via the email [office@southwolds.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@southwolds.notts.sch.uk) should you have any requirements regarding IT access at home. I have been reliably informed that there is a way to connect to Google Classroom through a games console if you are in possession of one and feel confident your child will not be too tempted to use it for other purposes! Please find attached an instruction leaflet if you would find this of use.

We are also working with a local IT firm, [Ruddington Computers](#), to refurbish old equipment to then loan to our students. If you have an old laptop that you no longer require and would consider donating it for us to use, please can you contact Carol Shardlow via [cshardlow@southwolds.notts.sch.uk](mailto:cshardlow@southwolds.notts.sch.uk) who can give you further information about this. Any device donated would be wiped clean of any data/information and then prepared for a student to use. We have already received some donations from local residents and a huge thank you to you for getting involved.

### **School-based Provision for Critical/Key Workers and Vulnerable Children**

If you are a key worker and you have not yet booked a place for your child for the days you require next week using our online form, you must do so as soon as possible and before 9.00 am every Friday at the very latest. Bookings made after this time will not be included within our registers for next week and it is highly unlikely that your child will be able to remain at school as staffing is arranged based on bookings made. We appreciate that rotas and requirements change on a weekly basis which is why we request that a new form is completed each week. Thank you for your support with this. Students who are deemed vulnerable will be contacted directly by the Inclusion team and provision will vary dependent on individual need and support available.

### **Examinations – Ofqual Consultation**

Ofqual have released this week a consultation regarding how grades should be awarded to those studying for GCSE, AS and A levels in 2021 and a link to this can be found [here](#). All stakeholders are encouraged to take part so if you would like to contribute then please do so. The closing date for this is 29<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Lateral Flow Device Testing**

The information about this is changing almost hourly at the moment so as a brief update, correct at the time of writing, we have set up a testing station and run tests for all consenting students and staff who are currently attending provision on site. There are no plans to carry out serial testing but we have now been asked to test staff twice a week so will continue with this until guidance changes. Which I am sure it will!

Please continue to take care of yourselves and those around you.

Yours sincerely



Halina Angus  
Head Teacher