



8 January 2021

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of a rather turbulent week and a rapidly evolving position in relation to educational settings, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you all with an update regarding some key aspects of our response to the national lockdown.

### **Keeping in Touch**

In line with government guidelines and the requirement to minimise the number of staff on site and therefore minimise contacts, we have taken steps to amend our communications strategy. The admin office will therefore be 'closed' until further notice and all general communication should be directed via email to [contact@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@suthersschool.co.uk) which will be monitored throughout the school day. Updates will also be shared via Twitter. You can follow us @SuthersSchool.

To report urgent safeguarding concerns, call 01636 957690 and/or email us on the above address and a member of the safeguarding team will make contact with you. There will be a Designated Safeguarding Person on site every day.

### **Provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable Children**

Our school remains open to children of Key Workers and vulnerable children. We are working hard in school to maintain safe provision and minimise contacts and so please do only use this provision if it is an absolute necessity. **To request a place for your child from Monday 11 January please complete the [online survey](#) by midday on Sunday 10 January.**

Please note that from Monday 11 January there will be no on-site catering provision and so all students attending will need to be provided with a packed lunch.

### **Remote Learning**

I have been really impressed by the level of engagement students have shown in their first week of remote learning since the start of term and to see that the introduction of live lessons alongside pre-recorded materials and assignments has been working well. As previously communicated, we will keep this provision under constant review and will provide updates whenever required. To access information about the programme of live lessons for w/c 11 January, please click [here](#).

### **Learning Resource Packs**

In order to provide students with the resources needed to learn as effectively as possible from home, work is underway to collate the most essential materials e.g. set texts for GCSE English and prepare a schedule for collection by parents / nominated adults. Further information to be provided next week.

## Access to IT Equipment and Increased Data

We have already loaned a significant number of devices to students who do not have access to one at home and are now reliant on any additional equipment we can secure as part of the DFE's laptop distribution scheme. A number of network providers are also offering additional support to schools, trusts and local authorities. Further details about this and the Get Help with Technology Scheme will be shared soon but if your child requires access to a loan device, please get in touch with us by emailing [contact@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@suthersschool.co.uk)

## Student Wellbeing

We will continue to support the mental health and wellbeing all of our students throughout this period of school closure through regular contact with staff. This will include 'live' and online interactions with teaching and support staff, as well as a weekly live Form Time every Wednesday (commencing 13/01/21). As previously, we will also be closely monitoring engagement and rates of participation in order that we can work together to safeguard the wellbeing of all our students. Please email your child's form tutor if you have any concerns yourself. For safeguarding concerns, please email [contact@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@suthersschool.co.uk) or call 01636 957690.

## Testing

Whilst the move to extend the period of school closure has impacted on the urgency for arranging testing for students, we have continued to make all necessary preparations and will begin testing staff on-site from Monday 11 January and anticipate that we will be in a position to commence testing of students who are accessing on-site provision from Tuesday 12 January. As previously suggested, collecting consent at whole school level is a time-consuming administrative job and we would therefore like to make sure this is completed in good time. I therefore ask that you please take time to read the information provided here and, if you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete our online registration and consent form by clicking [here](#)

## Free School Meals

Those families who receive free school meals should now have received their first instalment of vouchers via email. The next instalment of vouchers will be distributed from w/c 18 January 2021. If you encounter any issues with downloading and printing your vouchers or have any other queries related to Free School Meals, please email [contact@suthersschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@suthersschool.co.uk)

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to navigate our way through the challenges of a third national lockdown and keep our students, staff and their families as safe as possible.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr Andrew Pettit**  
Head of School