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Richard Brand: Headteacher

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

By now, you will have seen the latest government announcements around a new period of lockdown requiring all schools nationally to move to remote, online teaching. Although our first day of remote teaching has been overwhelmingly positive (today we delivered over 124 hours of live lessons to 438 unique students) we are working through a small number of inevitable teething problems as quickly as we can with the technology. Thank you for your continued patience as we navigate the rollout of this provision; unfortunately, there is no way to recreate these conditions beforehand!

Should your child have any problems with remote learning, please use our website as the first point of call for troubleshooting. There are online videos in the Student and Parent Information sections [here](#) as well as links to an IT Query form. Please use this to log an issue (e.g., forgotten password, issues joining TEAMS etc). Our staff are working as quickly as they can to respond to these and we will continue to work this week to iron out any snags which arise.

Further, we have taken delivery of another twenty-five laptops provided by the Department for Education and we have loaned these to students we know require them. We understand that there are some connectivity issues in the local area and have begun to look into buying in some Wi-Fi dongles as a further support. We understand that many families may have a number of children at home now with limited access to devices and would encourage you to contact us via info@thedeanacademy.org if the loan of a laptop would support your child with their schoolwork over the coming weeks. We have a limited supply of devices left to loan out and will share these based on a first come first serve basis.

Children of key workers continue to attend school and access their remote lessons on site, supervised by support staff. If you work within education, healthcare or key public services and require a place for your child in school please check the guidance [here](#) to see if you qualify and contact the school using [this form](#) to register your child for a place – please indicate which days they need to be in school and whether they will need transport organised. All students are to attend in full school uniform, bring a packed lunch (unless they have Free School Meals) and bring their books and headphones. They will be working in a computer room, accessing the same lessons as their peers throughout the day.

As you can see, with so much going on, school is most definitely not “closed” and we have been heartened but not in any way surprised to see so many students logging on to remote lessons, engaging fully and approaching their studies with in an enthusiastic and determined manner this morning. We are truly proud of their resilience and resolve to “keep on keeping on!”



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Thank you, again, for your continuing support and understanding as we work through this challenging situation; please be assured that our number one priority, alongside keeping our community safe, is to continue providing all students with an exceptional education. We look forward to working with you throughout this next period to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand
Headteacher

RJB/TW - lockdown-online tchg-050121



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