



Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

**RE: End of Week Update – Welcome Back & Online Learning Structure**

Thank you to all the parents who have taken the time this week to complete the online learning survey and to share feedback with the school. The response from families has been extremely strong and we are very grateful for the thoughtful comments and suggestions that have been submitted. Student responses are also continuing to come in and, together with staff feedback, they are giving us a very helpful picture of how the current arrangements are working.

A number of clear themes are already emerging. Parents have consistently told us that structure and routine in the school day are very important and that engagement is strongest when pupils are seeing and interacting directly with their teachers. Pupils have shared something very similar. They value clear explanation from their teachers but have also told us that they benefit from having time during lessons to work independently rather than being on screen continuously.

Staff feedback has also been helpful in identifying some of the practical challenges created by the temporary timetable structure and the demands of sustained screen time. Taken together, this feedback from parents, pupils and staff is helping us shape the next stage of online provision.

The temporary timetable that has been operating was always intended as a short-term stabilising structure while pupils and staff relocated and while families adjusted to learning online. The next phase will move us closer to a structure that resembles the normal school timetable while still working effectively in an online environment.

In practical terms, this means that teachers will increasingly return to teaching their own classes rather than the larger combined groups that were necessary during the first phase. This will create a more familiar structure for pupils and strengthen the connection between teachers and their classes.

We recognise that many parents will understandably be keen for these refinements to take place quickly. However, in order for the transition to work well it is important that teachers and pupils have time to prepare. For this reason, the current interim timetable will continue to operate on Sunday and Monday exactly as it has been running prior to the holiday.

During these two days we will also ensure that pupils are confident with the technical processes and systems that will support the next stage of online learning. This preparation will allow us to



introduce the adjusted structure from Tuesday in a way that is organised and predictable for pupils and families.

I will also publish a full summary of the survey outcomes and the school's recommendations early next week so that parents can clearly see how your feedback has informed the decisions we are making.

## **Assessment and Examinations**

Many parents have also asked about assessments, mock examinations and reporting, so I would like to provide some initial clarification.

You may have seen the recent communication regarding the Year 10 Maths and Science modular examinations. Due to the ongoing conflict and the impact it is having on our community, those examinations have been postponed and Year 10 pupils have been withdrawn from the June 2026 sitting, with the examinations moving to the November session. Any examination fees already paid will be carried forward.

More broadly, the mock examinations that were scheduled to take place next week for Year 10 and Year 11 will not take place while the school is operating remotely.

We are currently awaiting formal guidance from the examination boards regarding any adaptations or changes to external examinations. The Senior Leadership Team are meeting this evening with the Pearson representative for the Middle East and we have been advised that we should have clear guidance within the next two weeks.

Once that clarity is received, we will publish a full assessment and reporting calendar for all year groups so that parents and pupils have a clear overview of what to expect for the remainder of the academic year.

It is important to reassure families that examination boards have already made clear that pupils will not be disadvantaged by the current situation. Schools across the region are working closely with the boards and we will continue to advocate strongly for the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

While some formal examinations may need to move or change, assessment itself will certainly continue. Pupils will still complete assessments during this term whether we are learning online or back in school. These will be rigorous, carefully marked by teachers and followed by clear feedback to support pupils' progress. In other words, while some exams may move, pupils will not be escaping assessment entirely. Tests have a habit of finding pupils wherever the classroom happens to be.



Term 2 reports will also be released in the coming weeks. These will be informed by the assessments and work completed by pupils during the term and will provide parents with a clear picture of their child's progress and areas for development.

Finally, I would like to thank parents again for the support you have shown the school during what has been a very unusual period. The partnership between home and school is extremely important to us and your feedback is helping us continue to refine and improve the experience for our pupils.

Further updates will be shared early next week once the survey analysis is complete and once we have further information from the examination boards.

Best wishes,

**Samantha Reynolds**  
Head of Secondary