

Dear parents, carers and students,

Thank you for another fantastic week of engagement with remote learning - we know it's not easy, but the way our students have approached remote learning is nothing short of remarkable! Well done, I know the saying is "It takes a village to raise a child" but I think it takes a "Team" to educate a child, and Team Sherburn in lockdown is certainly stepping up to the challenge.

The DfE has asked all schools to publish an updated Remote Learning Guide for parents/carers on their website and our updated Guide can be found [here](#):

Parents/carers may also find the following Vodafone [Guide to Digital Learning](#) useful.

Support for students with SEND:

I am delighted that we have started our intervention sessions for some students with SEND. In addition, our Teaching Assistants are also supporting students in the virtual world, by joining "live" lessons and Google Classrooms so that students can access the support that they would normally receive in a classroom in the "Google" virtual classroom instead.

For students who prefer a colour overlay for reading, this free downloadable resource may be of interest: <https://www.aurelitec.com/colorveil/windows/>

Lateral Flow Testing Update:

Earlier in the week the government announced that plans for Serial Lateral Flow Testing (daily testing for when a student or member of staff has been in close contact with a positive case of Covid-19) will no longer be an option instead of self-isolation. This means any member of staff or student who has been in close contact with a positive case of Covid-19 is still expected to self-isolate.

I do hope that all our families remain well, but thought that I should bring this change to your attention in the event of a class or year group bubble having to isolate in the future.

Consultation on GCSEs, A Levels and Vocational Examinations 2021:

Last week I wrote to the parents/carers of students in examination years with an update. The government consultation on arrangements for the awarding of grades in 2021 can be accessed [here](#).

Wellbeing Resources:

The uncertainty, dark nights and boredom can make times really tough – please, don't suffer alone. For any parents/carers worried about their child, please contact your House Achievement Leader or if you are unsure how best to do that, email admin@shs.starmat.uk Alternatively, families may find some of the following links useful:

- [NYCC Mental health toolkit which contains resources, communication and links to share with children, young people and families](#)
- [Public Health England guidance on responding to covid-19 mental health and wellbeing resources and support for children and young people](#)
- The Government have provided COVID-19: [guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#), this guidance is available in many languages

Students – please don't suffer in silence. If you don't want to speak to someone at home or at school what taking a look at some of these resources or services?

- Staying Well at Home: Coping With Anxiety and Stress A FREE Workbook for Young People Aged 11-19 Years Old. The resource can be accessed [here](#)
- **Kooth offers young people in North Yorkshire free online counselling and support.** Young people aged 11-18 are able to access free online counselling and emotional wellbeing support through the online service. For more information please go to their [website](#)
- **Compass BUZZ offers a confidential text messaging service to young people aged 11-18 across North Yorkshire.** By texting the service on 07520 631168 a young person will be able to receive confidential advice, support and signposting from a wellbeing worker within one working day via text. For more information please go to their [website](#) .

And finally...

Whatever your political persuasion, I am sure we can all take strength from the words of Amanda Gorman's poem shared at Joe Biden's inauguration to help us through the tricky days ahead – "We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be...For there is always light."

I hope that your weekend is spent in much "light" and thank you as always for your on-going support,

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley

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