



5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to thank you for completing our recent Satchel survey on the impact of our remote learning, of which we received approximately 250 responses. This survey has provided us with additional information to help us evaluate our current provision and adjust any further support that may be required. The most important thing for my staff team and I, is to ensure we are responsive to the needs of each of our families. I have taken some of the main points we have picked up from the survey and provided information on how we are addressing them:

Parent & Carer: Concern over the amount of screen time their child is having each day.

Academy response: Teaching staff have been reminded to ensure lessons are capped at 50 minutes to allow students a 10 minute break away from their screens in between lessons (in addition to the 20 minute morning break and 30 minute lunch break).

Parent & Carer: Unsure of which remote learning tasks were part of a live lesson and which ones were set as an independent study task for homework.

Academy response: Teaching staff will always ensure that tasks from a lesson are saved, in Satchel, as 'Classwork' and homework tasks saved as 'Assignments'.

Parent & Carer: A small number of parents informed us that their child has difficulty accessing live lessons due to some IT issues at home.

Academy response: All of these individual cases have been contacted to make additional arrangements to support. However, if you feel you need any further IT support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Progress Leader. We do have some additional decommissioned laptops that we can supply.

Parent & Carer: Some students were sometimes finding it difficult to keep up with the content in a live lesson.

Academy response: Teaching staff will ensure live lessons are appropriately differentiated and accessible for students from all ability groups. Students are reminded to use the 'hands-up' or 'chat' functions in Teams to inform your teacher if you require further help and assistance during the lesson.

Some of our families have received bespoke support from either a member of our Senior Leadership Team or a Progress Leader to provide any additional help where it has been requested or where we thought it was needed. Many thanks for participating in the survey it has been invaluable to have the feedback so that we can provide more help and support at this difficult time. Thank you for the lovely comments too, I do share them with the team and it is very much appreciated.

With regards to ICT support, we have supplied 125 laptops to students having difficulties and we have decommissioned an additional 30 laptops from our Academy stock. We are pleased to share that The Cheltenham Education Partnership have also put a plan in place to source and provide equipment where needed across the town. Should you have any further difficulties in accessing provisions or remote learning at home then please let us know so we are able to support you.

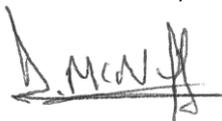
With this week being Child Mental Health week, I have attached some useful web links and information that will be helpful for any student finding the current lockdown situation difficult. May I also add that if you have any significant concerns regarding the wellbeing of your child, please do get in touch with the Progress Leaders or Senior Leadership in the Academy, so that we can provide help, advice and support.

The end of this term will be 12th February and the start of the new term will be Monday 22nd February at 8.50am for online Tutor Time.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of our prospective Sixth Form parents, carers and students who engaged with our online parents evening this week. It was great to catch up with you all and plan for your future A levels and vocational courses ready for the next academic year.

Our next important event is Year 11 Parents Evening, which is next Wednesday 10th February 4:45pm-7:00pm.

Yours sincerely



Mr D McNiffe
Principal

Young Minds

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/> for urgent, free 24/7 support if a young person is experiencing a mental health crisis. Texting YM to 85258 will be answered by a trained volunteer, supported by experienced clinical supervisors.

On Your Mind

<https://www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk/> On Your Mind is an NHS ran website to help young people in Gloucestershire cope with situations that may cause challenge. It includes self-help information for a number of wellbeing issues, it also has information for a wide range of local services to support young people's mental health in Gloucestershire.

Students have been made aware of a support service offered by Young Minds Matter. They can text any concerns to 07480 635723 and this is staffed from 9.00-4.30pm from Monday to Friday.

Teens in Crisis counselling

<https://www.ticplus.org.uk/> - free face-to-face and online counselling services across Gloucestershire for young people aged 9-21 and their families. TIC help many of the local communities' young people.

Tic+ chat:

<https://www.ticplus.org.uk/ticpluschat/> - an **anonymous**, safe, confidential, 1-2-1, support service for young people aged 9-21 living in Gloucestershire. 5pm-9pm Sunday-Thurs

Family Information Service

Call free on **0800 542 02 02** for a confidential advice line providing guidance and emotional support on any aspect of parenting and family life. Alternatively, email familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk

School nurse helpline

Text a message to **07507 333 351** – for young people aged 11-16, the school nurse can offer confidential advice and support for help with issues such as family/peer issues, puberty, emotional health, self-harm, drugs, alcohol and smoking, relationships

Childline

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> Support for young people for a wide range of mental health issue.

Additionally, <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/> is a safe, confidential, 1-2-1, support service for young people. Open from 7:30am – 2am every day.

Other helpful links:

- [Minded - general advice and direction](#)
- <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/looking-after-your-mental-health-we-come-out-lockdown>
- <http://www.healthforteens.co.uk/feelings/>
- www.Kooth.com

In any situation where a young person or adult is in immediate danger of significant harm, the Police should be contacted on 999.