

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

22 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: TCOLC Update**

It is now the end of our third week of remote education and while we are all hoping that we will be open as normal after February half term, it is possible that our remote provision will continue towards Easter. For this reason, we asked for teacher, student and your own feedback about the quality of our provision and what changes we may need to make it more manageable and effective. I would like to thank those of you who responded, we had over two hundred responses from parents and a huge number of students gave their views and it was extremely heartening to see how positive the responses were. I would also like to thank all of you who have contacted myself and other members of staff about the quality of online learning. We have worked very hard as a school to be prepared for such a situation and it is nice to get lots of positive feedback from our community.

In light of the feedback we have received, we will continue to follow your child's normal in school timetable where possible. We will also continue to have a mixture of full online lessons and lessons that are introduced and resourced by the teacher that your child can work through independently. This variety of approach has proved popular and effective. We have however made the following two adjustments to our remote provision from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January:

- Lessons will now be 50 minutes in length rather than 60 minutes. From your feedback it was clear that students needed time to complete tasks and have breaks from the screen so they could stretch and take a break. This was also making it difficult for students and teachers to begin the next lesson on time if there were any technical issues. A number of staff have commented that they are able to get through more content without the need to swap classrooms and without some of the other distractions that sometimes occur in a room full of students, so we are confident this reduction in time will not disadvantage our students.
- Staff will be available to give feedback during the lesson where needed through the Teams chat function, but they will only give feedback on key identified pieces of work. Lots of students have been emailing all of their work through to their teacher for feedback and it is great to see such thirst for improvement. However, lots of students have been working very long hours trying to improve this work and staff are being overwhelmed with marking. It is important that staff have time to plan their lessons and mark key pieces of work but it is equally important that your children are well rested when they arrive at their lessons.

You may also have seen that the consultation for awarding GCSE and A-Level grades has been published by Ofqual. There are some interesting details in the document that may interest you, and if you have time you may also wish to respond to the consultation as they are requesting the views of parents and students. I have responded to the consultation on behalf of the school

and I am extremely confident that whatever the process is, we will manage it fairly and robustly as we did last year. I did however raise a few points with them that I think need more detail and you may also identify some things that you feel need to be looked at again.

Finally, for today, I would like to apologise for the issues we had in Year 9 parents' evening last night. Unfortunately, the service we use went down for a time and meant that some of our appointments were unable to happen. If there are any specific questions that were unable to be answered last night, please contact Mrs Powell who will be able to liaise with the appropriate staff member and get back to you. Her email address is [Spowell@cityleicester.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:Spowell@cityleicester.leicester.sch.uk) for those who need it.

I want to thank you again for all of your support for the school and for your children and hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Vernon', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

**Mr K. Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**