

Dormers Wells High School

MATHS AND COMPUTING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms R. Walsh B.A.Hons M.Sc.

Dormers Wells Lane, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3HZ
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28th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and staying safe as we navigate our way through these uncertain times. I would like to thank you for your feedback during the last two weeks. It has proven very useful in helping us to plan for the longer term when the pupils will not be at school and how we can best support you in ways that you find helpful.

School Closure Update

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced that it will **not** be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead **hopes** it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. Our school will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as we are now. All other pupils will continue to receive our high-quality remote education at home. As soon as we have more details regarding the reopening, we will update you.

Remote Learning

I am constantly reviewing our online learning and it is really pleasing to see so many of our students actively engaged in their lessons. This week we have sent out some surveys to monitor our progress. Thank you to all those who have responded to the Parental Survey. I would also like to say a huge thank you to parents who have taken time to thank the staff – I really appreciate your positive comments and will share with the staff this week.

Virtual Parents Evening

Our annual Y12/13 parents evening will take place on Thursday 4th February 2021. This will be a virtual parents' evening and you will receive further instructions in the coming days about how to book appointments with your son/daughter's teachers.

We have also rescheduled our Year 11 parents evening. This will now take place on Wednesday 10th February 2021. Again, you will receive further information in the coming days.

Year 8 & 9 Options Evening

Once again, we are going virtual for these events! The Year 9 into Year 10 Options Evening is on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 and Year 8 into Year 9 Options Evening is on Wednesday 10th February 2021. Both events will be accessible from 4pm via the school website.



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Parental Survey

Some of you have told us that your son/daughter is struggling to complete all the daily tasks set by their teachers. So, to help with this, we have decided to have **two catch up afternoons**:

- **Thursday 4th February and Wednesday 10th February 2021** – students will have lessons up to and including period 3. There will be no lessons for students during period 4 & 5 thereby providing students with the time to catch up on incomplete work.

Free School Meals

Families who are eligible for free school meals should now have received the government vouchers. If you have not received your voucher, please send a message via the My Ed app and a member of staff will contact you directly.

February Half Term

Even though students and staff have been working in a very different way this term, it is just as important that they have time to rest and recuperate. Therefore, the school will close as usual over February half-term. Families who receive free school meal vouchers will receive a voucher from Ealing Council as part of the Covid Winter Grant Scheme. You do not have to do anything; the local authority will email the voucher to you directly.

Teacher Calls

Parents play a vital role in their children's education and we have been delighted to hear that many of you are becoming increasingly more involved in your child's education helping them with lessons and assessments and spending time supporting them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support which we always value.

We are reintroducing our teacher calls from 1st February 2021. This call will register as an unknown caller. If staff leave a message, they will follow up with another call please answer as the staff will want to discuss your child's engagement in the remote learning.

Of course, if you want to contact the school, please call 020 8566 6446 and leave a message with our reception team or alternatively send a message via the My Ed app.

Keeping Your Child Safe Online

Whilst there are huge benefits to being online to stay connected to family and friends during this period, we recognise many parents may feel concerned about the activities and content their children are accessing. This guidance outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to receive support and advice.



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<u>Thinkuknow</u>	by the National Crime Agency - Child Exploitation and Online Protection command (NCA-CEOP) provides resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online
<u>Childnet</u>	has developed <u>guidance for parents and carers</u> to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as <u>guidance on keeping under-fives safe online</u>
<u>Parent Info</u>	is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations

We want to continue to work closely with all our students and their families. In this very different time we have found strength in working together. Please do stay safe and take care. Our thoughts are with you and your families.

Yours faithfully,

Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



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