

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Chromebooks Years 7-10

All students in Years 7-10 should now have their Chromebooks with them every day. We are very grateful for the support of parents since we first introduced the idea of students having one-to-one devices. We are delighted to see the many ways in which Chromebooks are being used in lessons to enhance teaching & learning; this will only grow further as we all, staff and students, develop our skills and confidence.

As a reminder students in Years 7-10 need to ensure:

- They bring their device to school every day. It must be stored in its case, which in turn must be inside their school bag. Failure to have their Chromebook might impact on their ability to fully engage with the lesson.
- They always have a pair of headphones that are compatible with their device. In line with the school behaviour policy, AirPod or Earbud style wireless headphones are **not** permitted on the school site.
- Students' devices should be fully charged each night and switched off to ensure any updates can take place ready for the next school day.
- Students should not bring their chargers into school as this could result in them being damaged and lost
- For devices purchased via our Partner Freedom Tech, if the device is damaged or has a fault, parents/carers need to contact our technical support team at Parmiter's via email chromebooks@parmiters.herts.sch.uk. We will then ensure the device is fixed and the student is given a loan device until the issue is resolved.

Families that wish to now buy into the school scheme will be sent further detail in the near future on how you can sign up.

Students joining live lessons

Whilst we are delighted with the quality of remote learning we are now able to provide, it is not a substitute for students being in the classroom with their teachers and their peers. I therefore thought it helpful to clarify the situations when we can and cannot provide live lessons.

Students should join a live lesson if they are absent from school because of a reason related to Covid. They are expected to join their lessons using the Google Meet functionality within Google Classroom, unless of course, they are unwell and need to focus on getting better. Covid related reasons covers:

- Any student who has tested positive and is required to isolate
- Any student who has symptoms and is waiting for the results of a PCR test
- Any student who is a household contact of a positive case and is awaiting a PCR test result





In line with government advice, anyone under the age of 18 years 6 months does not have to isolate if a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19. However, we know some families have kept children at home whilst the whole family waits for the results of PCR tests. If you choose to do this, please inform us and we will be able to offer live lessons.

Examples of situations where live lessons will **not** be offered:

- If students are absent for a non-COVID related illness. Students must focus on getting better and returning to school as soon as they are able to.
- If a student has an authorised absence for a religious holiday. We fully support these requests for absence so that students can celebrate with their families. However, if you are not celebrating as a family, we politely request that students attend school.
- To allow students to work at home on a day when they have a medical appointment. Wherever possible, medical appointments should be made outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, students can be collected from school in time for their appointment and return afterwards.
- Where absences have been approved for participation in sporting events, to attend family celebrations etc.
- Any unauthorised absence.

We have a small number of students with long-term chronic medical conditions that can seriously impact attendance. In these cases, students will be offered live lessons if approved by the Local Authority Attendance Officer. For families this is relevant to, please contact your child's Head of Key Stage so they can ensure the relevant teaching staff are aware. Our Heads of Key Stage are:

Year 7, 8 & 9: Mr Cummings (b.cummings@parmiters.herts.sch.uk)

Year 10 & 11: Ms Hall (m.hall@parmiters.herts.sch.uk)

Year 12 & 13: Mrs Rowland (w.rowland@parmiters.herts.sch.uk)

Kind regards

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Headmaster