

Dear Parent/Carer

After a positive first term, under challenging circumstances, we are now writing to update you as we begin the latest national lockdown. The increased infection rate across the country has meant that the government has been compelled to act. The government has been clear that “the single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives”. For our school, this means that we remain open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will learn remotely until at least February half term. We were extremely proud of our entire school community during the first National Lockdown. Staff, students and parents pulled together and displayed great resilience. We know that we can all do the same again.

### **Remote Learning**

There will be increased rigour to remote learning and a clear expectation that all students fully engage with it. At Jesmond Park Academy our remote learning provision on Frog and OneDrive means that students can access learning through a range of expertly designed learning tasks. Please see the detailed guide to remote learning on the school website, which you can easily access from the second button on the website homepage. This will solve most of the problems or issues that you may encounter. It is important that students work to a set routine, led by their timetabled lessons, and in a quiet, appropriate space at home. Teachers are available for support during the school day and you or your son/daughter can contact them via email. Teachers have been instructed to contact any students not completing work as it is compulsory for them to complete it, just as it would be in school. Students need to complete the work set on the One Drive and then complete Frog Assignments which will be used to assess progress and understanding. They will receive feedback on these assignments. Students can also email work to their teachers if they want some reassurance on any areas of misconception or even just to share a piece of work of which they are particularly proud. We have had a positive start to the remote learning experience and students have already started sending work back for feedback.

### **Wellbeing Calls**

We will be making regular wellbeing calls to every household to check how well things are going and whether there is anything we can help with. **Please be aware that if there is a 'Withheld Number' then it may be from the school so please answer it.** We want to ensure that students are coping, not just with their work, but also with the challenges faced with lockdown and isolation.

**Paul Anderson/Claire Smith Acting Principal**

**Hugh Robinson CEO**

Jesmond Park West, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7DP

T +44 (0)191 281 8486 F +44 (0)191 281 0381

E [admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk) W [www.jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.jesmondparkacademy.org.uk)

The Gosforth Federated Academies Ltd trading as the Gosforth Group – Company Registration Number: 07431423  
Registered Office: Gosforth Academy, Knightsbridge, Great North Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2JH

### Free School Meal Provision

As usual, free school meals can be collected from school for any eligible students. Please email [admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk) before 10.00am if you require a packed lunch that day. Please ensure that packed lunches are collected by 12.00pm from main reception. If there are any queries with this, then please email the school at the same email address. There was a discussion in Parliament this week about the return of free school meals vouchers. We have no further information on this at the current time but will share this with you as we receive it.

### Training Day

A further reminder that Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January is a Training Day. This has been in the school calendar since the start of the academic year. We will be covering important Safeguarding Training as well as working on remote learning and the new Covid testing regime that schools will operate after half term. Please be aware that there will be no critical worker/vulnerable provision on that day but remote learning activities will be available on the VLE.

### Year 11 and Sixth Form Examinations

The Secretary of State has confirmed that we will not be asking students to sit GCSE, AS and A Level examinations this summer. Ofqual will consult next week on how to fairly award all pupils with a grade to ensure they can progress to the next stage of their lives.

We will of course let you know when anything further is announced but, as you are aware, the situation with this is extremely fluid and new information often arrives on a daily basis. We have been informed that public exams and vocational assessments scheduled to take place in January can go ahead as planned, however we are contacting students and parents affected directly to discuss their options. The mock examinations for Year 11 timetabled this week and next week have been postponed until students can return to school. We will keep you updated on any change of dates regarding Yr13 mock examinations.

This is undoubtedly a difficult and anxious time for Year 11 and Year 13 students. It is a shame that they will be denied their usual examination experience as they have worked extremely hard and we were expecting very good results. However, **it is more important than ever that Year 11 and Year 13 students put the maximum effort into their studies and aim to produce work of the highest quality. They still have their GCSEs and A Levels to achieve and it is crucial that they do not give up now.** Whichever method the government uses to award grades, it will certainly be based on **hard evidence. This means that any assessed work from now could potentially contribute to final grades.**

### Vulnerable Students and Children of Critical Workers

The Government have said that vulnerable students and children of critical workers can attend school. If any vulnerable students and children of critical workers have no other alternative and need to attend school please send an email to [admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk) with 'Critical Worker/Vulnerable student' in the subject heading. Please state your child's name and year group and, to support us with our planning, state which days you require your child to attend school. The more advance notice you can give us the more this helps us with our planning. Thank you in advance for this.

Students who are in school will be supervised to complete their remote learning but will NOT be in normal lessons. They should arrive for school as normal in uniform at 8.25am and wait outside main reception socially distanced. Vulnerable children include those with education, health and care (EHC) plans and those who have a social worker (including children in need, children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority). Critical workers are those in the following critical sectors: Health and Social Care i.e., NHS staff, care workers and social workers; Education and Child Care i.e., nursery and teaching staff; Key Public Services i.e., justice system, religious staff, journalists; Local and National Government; Food and other necessary goods i.e., those involved in production, distribution, sale and delivery of food and hygiene goods; Public Safety and National Security i.e., Emergency services, prison; Transport i.e., rail, road and freight transport; Utilities, Communication and Financial services i.e., postal workers, banks, building societies and waste disposal.

Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need to do so. You only need to let us know if your child absolutely needs to attend school because they are vulnerable and/or you are a critical worker.

### **Key Information and Updates**

The usual page on our website home page will be updated with important information as it arises. Please continue to check this regularly and we may, on occasion, send you a text linking to information on this page.

### **Looking Forward**

Finally, we would like to say that we are confident that brighter times lie ahead. We are desperate to get back to normality and to focus on what we do best. This is a testing time for all of us, but we will endure. Hopefully, come the Spring, the worst of this will be behind us and we can look forward to a brighter Summer.

Yours faithfully

Paul Anderson/Claire Smith  
Acting Principals