

CATCH IT! BIN IT! KILL IT!



Year 11 (Remote Education-January Review)

Dear Parents and Carer,

07 February 2021

I hope that you and your families are well and on behalf of us all at Spires we thank you for your continued support. As you are aware at the start of term Anthem reviewed our trust wide Remote Education policy for schools and from 11th January, we have been implementing live segments into our blended offer.

From the feedback that you have already shared, we know that this live contact is helping your children to feel better connected to school and to their teachers. The live segments are working well as part of a blended learning and approach and are helping your children to feel more confident in their learning. Our monitoring shows us that the time spent in live sessions from 11th January – 5th February has increased by 75%. Your children will know when live segments are happening through their Teams calendar and whenever possible students should attend these sessions.

We recognise, that for lots of reasons some of our families find it difficult to access the live segments at set times during the day. To help you, our teachers are recording these segments, all students can then use these as a valuable learning resource at a later point to support their independent learning. Your children should continue to follow their normal timetabled lessons each day, their work will be available on Teams from 9.00am and they will be expected to submit their assignments for that day by 10.00pm that same evening.

Parent Survey: As always, your insight is highly valued and we would like to ask you to take a few minutes to complete our Parent Survey, please complete this before Sunday 14 February.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pGcNtDFve0GB0B6WvxpVXCoZrmg0WCVFt4feHiC1jH1UOUJGOTRSTFBZTOI4NDNTUDhWM0Y3UTIZVC4u>

Supporting Home Education: Mr Khan has been working closely with our families to make sure that all students have access at home to remote education. We are enormously grateful for all of your contributions and generosity in supporting us to provide laptops and devices. We are proud of our community and once all of these devices are allocated, we would have provided connectivity, devices, or laptops to 28% of our students & families.

- 143 laptops/devices were provided to students from the last lock down and a further 146 devices and laptops have been allocated to students since the start of January.
- We have recently a further donation of 22 devices these are currently being equipped with software and we have just received confirmation on Friday that an additional 50 laptops are also on their way.

Year 11 Remote Education engagement: Despite facing the additional unknowns and challenges around their exams and the next steps, our Year 11 students continue to diligently to complete their work and revision from home.

Mrs Cole, tutors, and teachers have been hugely impressed by their dedication and continuing commitment shown by Year 11. This will support their on-going successes in the in-class assessments and Mock exams which have currently been rescheduled to term 3. As soon as we received the finalised information from the exam boards and have a confirmed return date, we will provide you with further information.

Week Snapshot 01.02-05.02	Devices /Internet provided to students (January)	Vulnerable &Critical worker students attending School (January)	Positive Events 01.02-05.02	Commendations 01.02-05.02	High Levels of engagement 01.02-05.02
Year 11	13	10%	83%	59%	82%
Year 7-11	112	11%	80%	53%	83%

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Colleagues at the school have been making sure that we regularly keep in touch with you our families, and students. We have made contact with all our students since the start of lockdown and have been in regular contact with 98% of our students/families through live tutor sessions, phone calls, or emails.

Recognising student achievement: As we know rewards and recognition can be a really great indicator of engagement and we can see a direct link in the Year 11 grid. Over the last week, across Year 11 83% of the students have positive points and 59% of the students have achieved commendations.

A huge number of rewards have been achieved by students across the schoolteachers have awarded 8484 House points and 1574 commendations were awarded to students over the last week:

- In January 39,368 House points have been awarded to students
- We have awarded 7212 commendations across the school.
- 94% of students have received rewards and positive points.
- 180 students have been recognised in our January Student Gallery. (attached)
- We have also planned live achievement and celebration assemblies next week.

Mrs Woodworth-Sturla will be sending out commendations through the post so please look out for these. (These are worth 10 House points) Please also take a moment to look through our Student Gallery This edition is full of the fantastic work which is being produced by our students at home.

Public Speaking (ESU update): A team of our students have recently competed in the first round of the English Speaking Union public speaking competition. This competition is for students in Year 9-11 and we have strong record of success in this competition and were previously National finalists, placing us in the top 10% nationally.

This year we entered a Year 10 team (Speaker-Ayesha, Chair-Eva, Questioner-Max) and a Year 9 team (Speaker-Skyla, Chair-Zoha and Questioner-Olivia).

We were competing against two teams from St Helen and St Katharine School, one team from Magdalen College and one from Oxford International School. Olivia was awarded the individual award for best questioner and the Year 9 team were one of two teams to be put through to the next round.

The next round is in March and I am sure that you will join me in wishing our Year 9 team the very best in this next stage of the competition. Miss Morris who supported the teams in the ESU said **“she was really impressed by all of our students; they were absolutely brilliant and were all ambassadors for our school”**

OSA Whole School Reading Challenge: This is the perfect way to encourage non-fiction reading and to make sure that your child reads for at least 30 minutes each day. Mr Sheppard and Miss Har have set the whole school a reading challenge. There is something in the challenge for every type of reader and if you are unsure which challenge your child should pick please email Mr Sheppard and he will help them to choose the best one. (See the attached flyer)

Best of wishes for the week ahead.

Marianne Blake