



6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

**RE: All Years - Student access to laptops at home**

In line with the DFE's recommendation that we teach mostly 'live' lessons if there is another lockdown or partial lockdown, we would ask that your daughter/son has access to a computer with an internet connection for the majority of the school day.

Even if there isn't a lockdown, home learning has become more reliant on students having frequent access to a computer at home. Home learning is being set electronically through SIMS and staff are increasingly using MS TEAMS as the interactive platform. Moreover, software such as Mathswatch, MyMaths and Kerboodle are well established teaching resources alongside various recommended websites and video clips to enhance learning. Using a phone or tablet to access these resources is fine for reading but to engage interactively and to upload work, students need a keyboard.

Heads of Year have surveyed their year groups and whilst the majority of students have access to a laptop or desktop with a reliable internet connection there are a number of students who are relying on their phone or tablet to access and complete home learning. In addition, some students are sharing a computer with siblings or parents and can only use it for a short period of time each day. Remote learning from home during the lockdown made us acutely aware of the problems that these students faced when they were trying to access work set. If your daughter/son is struggling to access a computer, we would recommend that you purchase a laptop for her/him. Sadly, we can only provide school laptops for students who are eligible for disadvantaged student funding.

If you want to discuss this further please can you contact your daughter/son's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely

Gemma Whitehouse  
Head of Biology  
AHT Pathway

Caroline Shephard  
Head of Year 11  
AHT Pathway