



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref:O/KRParLet/screenfree/jsn

22nd January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we enter into our fourth week of remote learning due to the lockdown, we appreciate that it is not easy for anyone to operate in a consistent manner during this time.

For this reason, we have decided to make next Tuesday 26th January, a screen free day. What this means is that effectively, whilst we will still send work out for students to complete in line with their timetable, it will not be IT dependent and we will not conduct zoom calls for the day. We would like to give staff and students a break from the screen and a chance to do something different.

I am therefore encouraging staff to set work which allows students to access their learning independently and to try and create some different ways for them to engage in their education. This may still involve the opportunity for extended reading or creative writing, but it could also include a wider range of activities, encouraging students to explore alternative ways to learn.

I am really pleased with the way our students have responded and I am also very proud of the way staff have embraced the challenges presented. We are constantly reflecting on and refining our practice to try and ensure that remote learning is as effective as it can be. I have communicated to all students around some basic expectations in that we expect students wherever possible, to have their cameras on and to engage in the lesson. It is not easy for a teacher to teach to 20+ blank screens and I do not think it is fair to expect them to do so. I appreciate your support in ensuring your child engages in their lesson in a mature and responsible way. Undoubtedly they will learn more when they do.

This week, we experienced a disruption due to a power-cut in Winterton. Thankfully it was restored within a couple of hours. Delivering our provision remotely is always going to leave us vulnerable to things going wrong, however to date, we have for the most part been able to ensure that all lessons go ahead as planned.

I would like to thank you and our students for your understanding and support and for helping to make the best of the situation that we are in. Please stay safe and hopefully it will not be too long before we are able to return to some kind of normality. In the meantime, I hope our students enjoy a screen-free day, I think it will do everyone some good.

Kind regards,

Mr Rowlands
Headteacher