

COVID Update, Mr Reynolds, Executive Principal, 22nd January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I was delighted to see the headline this week, 'Ofsted receives 13,000 emails praising schools (but just 260 complaints)'. We, too, have, had families who have written to Ofsted from Consett Academy criticising Gavin Williamson's statement and complimenting us on what we are offering. This is reassuring for our profession and humbling for us as a staff body. I know we all try very hard to look after your child and provide the best remote education we can. The number of students online and engaging with their learning and teachers this week is at an all time high with average daily engagement across all year groups at 93%. Well done!













As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, we don't exactly know what evidence the government are going to ask us to use, on which to base teacher-assessed grades for Year 13 and Year 11. Now the proposals are out to public consultation we know the teacher assessment is not going to be based on just one set of assessments or one piece of work but a range. Prior attainment may be considered from GCSE for Year 13 or Key Stage 2 for Year 11. Mini-exams have been suggested. The government do seem to be keen that a student is judged on the standard at which the student is performing at the time the judgement is made. It is not proposed that teachers should be asked to decide the grade a student might have achieved had the pandemic not occurred. It is not proposed to ask teachers what grade a student might have received if they had been able to take their exams – which is what teachers were asked in 2020. Although these are just proposals this is a fundamental shift from last year. On behalf of our school I have replied to the consultation questioning whether this fair and can be adequately moderated across all schools.

Therefore, it is absolutely vital that your son or daughter keeps engaging with their lessons and assessments and, continues to build upon and consolidate their learning and understanding. If this proposal does stand, how you child is working now will count for a lot.



Expectations



 Ready	 Respectful	 Safe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be ready to start school at 8:30 and be on time for all lessons. • Come prepared and ready to learn. • Fully participate and engage in learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mute Microphone as you enter the lesson and only unmute if you are asked by your teacher. • Raise your hand if you have a question. • Use the chat function sensibly and appropriately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take regular screen breaks. • Contribute to a safe learning environment by following the rules and guidelines around online learning. • Don't share passwords or other sensitive information. 

While students are learning remotely, our virtual classrooms, online meetings, and workspaces are extensions of our school environment. This week we have relaunched our online expectations with all students, these are linked to our three core behaviour

principals of: **Ready, Respectful and Safe**. All students have been reminded to attend their year group assembly at 8:30 every morning and to fully participate in all lessons. We have been overwhelmed so far by the engagement and commitment of the students across all year groups. Well done and keep up the good work!

Next week we are expecting over a hundred students in school. We will of course accommodate them and ensure they access their learning. However, I must stress the importance of good behaviour and a positive attitude to learning. If a student repeatedly ignores our rules we may have to ask you to keep them at home. Please do encourage your child to keep at it – the more they can do now the less catching up they'll have later. And, they may get into the Golden Moments Prize Draw! Our new website has now gone live – please do take a look.

Have a good weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Kevin Reynolds, Executive Principal