

Dear Parent/Carer,

21 January 2021

I would like to wish you and your families positive mental and physical health at this challenging time and keep you in my prayers. The following letter will communicate with you our approach to increasing student engagement with Teams remote learning between now and February half term. Each of these strategies requires complete drive and engagement from parents and carers to support joint vision which is to allow every child to achieve their God given potential throughout this pandemic and beyond.

Parental Remote Education Evenings on Zoom:

It's been brilliant meeting parents with students in Year 11, 7, 8 and 9 for our virtual Remote Education Evenings over the past four weeks. The positive feedback and messages of thanks from you go a long way to provide staff with a sense of comfort knowing that you and the students are grateful for the offer at home. Our Year 10 Remote Education Evenings is on Tuesday 26th January at 6pm, we look forward to seeing all Year 10 parents there on Zoom. More details will follow with a letter, text and phone call. If you feel you do not receive text messages or calls, please contact school@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk. If you missed your child's Remote Education Evening, here are links to videos to support you as parents:

To access the videos linked below, you will be asked for an email address and password. Please enter the same school email address and password your child uses to log into MS Teams:

[Using Microsoft Teams](#) (Year 7 demo but can be used for other year groups)

[Using Microsoft Teams](#) (Year 11 demo but can be used for other year groups)

[Supporting your child with home learning](#)

[Using Educake to support with Science Revision](#)

[Safety online, well-being and the effects of lock down, rewards and support](#)

[An overview of reports](#)

Catch-up Friday

Friday 22nd at St Mark's Academy is a dedicated day to allow coaches time to contact you as parents and students to discuss individual engagement and progress with remote learning. Please do expect a call from your child's coach and get ready to be supported and ask any questions you would like to about Teams and our remote education offer. We hope this day will support parents and carers and students as we work in partnership to increase or sustain student engagement with online learning.

On Friday, all of our lessons will be catch-up lessons to allow students and families time to ensure they're not falling behind with important curriculum content and big ideas.

Where students do not have a particular subject on Friday, **one** of their lessons in **that subject next week will be a catch-up lesson**. This will allow you as families to make sure your child is keeping up with all lessons, quizzes and stretch activities in all their subjects.

Interim Principal Hannah Fahey

Please can I ask that you discuss this strategy with your child so that you are ready to speak to the Coach or Progress Leader on Friday with questions or points of praise. Again, if you do not receive a call, please contact school@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk to ask for your number to be changed on the system and request a call back from your child's Progress Leader.

Emails from Teachers

Many teachers have been emailing students' school email addresses to prompt their submission of Teams assignments. Please can you ask to see your child's email inbox this week and encourage them to reply to teachers and action any requests. This will be great practice for students as they engage in professional email dialogue, a skill they will need when studying at St Mark's Sixth Form and at University or the world of work.

Thank you for everything you are doing as parents to drive remote learning via Teams at home, as well as managing the challenges that lockdown brings. These are difficult times and we want to use our values to support you through as we work in partnership to support every young person to receive a full curriculum during lockdown. We look forward to speaking to you Friday over the phone.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Wignal
School Chaplain and Director of Personal Development