



## Liverpool College

22 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both you and your sons and daughters for their continued hard work and support in ensuring this provision is the best that it possibly can be during the current national lockdown and school closures for the majority of pupils.

We continue to review our remote learning provision and seek to improve to the benefit of all our pupils.

As such we have made the following improvements to our Microsoft Teams remote learning provision for the current term:

- live Teams lessons for the majority of the school day
- a full timetable of lesson with no narrowing of the curriculum offer
- the use of 'breakout rooms' in Teams to enable small group work and small group learning support
- teacher tracking of pupil participation in Teams to monitor not only the 'logging on' of pupils but also their engagement throughout the live lesson
- the use of 'Assignments' in Teams so that pupils can complete rigorous assessments in each of their subjects, for example in English lesson
- sharing good practice amongst teachers with practical techniques to improve the quality of pedagogy and activities during live lessons, for example the use of polls in the chat to gauge ongoing knowledge and understanding during the lesson.

As we enter the fourth week of the Lent Term a further development that we are encouraging to improve the learning experience (and the teaching!) is for pupils to switch their cameras on during lessons. This would facilitate staff and pupil interaction and engagement and help ensure that pupils are focusing on their learning.

We will be asking pupils to switch their cameras on during all their Teams lessons next week. So that this can be monitored effectively, can I ask that if your son / daughter does not have a camera on their device or any alternative device or you do not feel comfortable with your child having a camera on to please inform your child's House Administrator?

From the very welcome positive feedback that I have received from parents I know that these improvements and all the efforts of our teachers to develop their remote learning skills are much appreciated.

That being said, there has unfortunately emerged a small minority of pupils who are still resisting engaging in their remote learning and are seeking to take the opportunity of lockdown to disengage in their learning. This will not be tolerated. We are working hard with pupils, parents, and external agencies to follow this up and issue appropriate consequences, just as we would do if pupils were physically present in school.

Consequently, a further improvement to our Teams provision has been around the security and access of our remote learning provision.

Unfortunately, the small minority of disruptive pupils includes those who are following the poor example set by others in the city by seeking to invite pupils outside of Liverpool College to their remote lessons.

I would therefore also like to take this opportunity to reassure parents that all our remote lessons now default to a lobby system to ensure that only Liverpool College pupils are permitted to join a Teams lesson. Aside from this preventative measure, all Teams lessons are recorded so that any disruption can be followed up with identification of the pupils involved, as well as reporting of the relevant IP addresses.

Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to ensure that learning continues during these challenging times and I wish you and your families well.

Kind regards and keep safe,

**Mrs A Haynes**  
**Vice Principal**