

19 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Half Term Update**

As we approach the half term holiday, I would like to update you on the current situation in school.

Firstly, I would like to say how proud I am of our students and staff. They have adapted quickly to working in unprecedented circumstances. As you will be aware, our students are working in year group 'bubbles' and do not have contact with students in other year groups during the academy day. All students and staff are wearing face coverings in corridors and communal areas and again everyone has adapted well to this new rule.

Unfortunately, we are currently unable to offer our usual wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities owing to restrictions in some practical subjects and being unable to mix year groups. Music has been particularly affected as we are unable to run our wind band and choirs. However, we accept that this is a temporary measure and are looking forward to a time in the near future when we are able to fully resume activities.

All students have received a log in for Microsoft Teams to enable them to continue their learning from home in the event of them having to self-isolate. Homework is also being set on line in some subjects either via Teams or using Hegarty Maths (Sparx for Year 7), Language Nut or GCSE Pod - these are all educational software programmes that the academy has subscribed to.

**Importantly, please be advised that if your child develops Covid symptoms during the half term holiday and receives a positive test result, you need to notify the academy using the [info@valeacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@valeacademy.org.uk) e-mail address.** As you will appreciate, it is important that we are able to identify close contacts in the event of a confirmed case prior to the academy reopening on Monday 02 November.

I would like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support in these challenging times. I hope you are able to enjoy the half term holiday and that you and your family stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Williams'.

**Mrs N Williams**  
**Associate Executive Principal**