



Shirley High School

Performing Arts College

"Striving for Excellence"

TM/KAW/Remote Learning – last week of term
11 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Important Information – please read

Before I begin I would just like to thank students and families for their resilience, compassion and creative attitude in what has been a challenge period for all within our society. You have been a credit to Shirley High School and we are proud that you are part of our community.

I write to you with regards the last week of term. As I am sure, you are aware there has been a rise in cases in London, especially in school age children. This has led to more teachers being identified as contacts and having to self-isolate. Due to this, we have now reached a limit where remote learning is the most effective method for the majority of our students to maintain the educational expectations of the school.

Throughout this pandemic Shirley High School has done all we can to ensure that school remains the safest place possible for our staff and students, and we have made our decisions based on the information available and the expectations of those setting national policies and guidance. We are fully aware of the approaching holiday period, many of you have been in touch regarding your concerns, and calls for a common sense approach in protecting those that will be joining your agreed bubbles over the festive period. Although we share your concerns, our decisions are based on the guidance we have receive from the DfE, the safety of our students and their educational future.

After discussions at SLT and at governance level, examining the implications of all decisions possible and the impact on teaching time, the decision has been made to move to full remote learning from Monday 14 December 2020 until the end of the term. School will remain open for targeted groups of students, particularly those in year 11 and 13, and they will receive email confirmation and details of any face-to-face sessions. Other students from a vulnerable or key worker background should complete a Google form - [please click here](#) so we can discuss how best to support those families further until the end of the term.

This decision has not been taken lightly and of course will bring a mixed reaction from many within our community, however as a school we will continue to make decisions that we believe are in the best health and educational interest of our students while protecting the health of everyone within our community. For this reason, I would like to stress that those working remotely stay home and that parents / carers strongly enforce this for the benefit of our community.

Students will follow their normal timetable and lessons will be delivered live or live-recorded. Tasks will be available on our new Google classroom platform - [please click here](#). Should you have any issues with regards access please again contact us office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk and we will do all we can to provide you with the equipment you need or the work you require.

We never like to communicate such news and I hope you understand our need to do so. We appreciate the limited notice that has been given but, as we approach the final week of term, we have waited for as long as we could to see if the local situation improved, sadly it has in fact deteriorated.

Principal: Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

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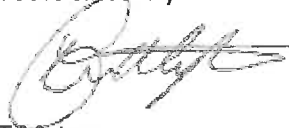
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This has not been an easy decision as I am sure you understand. I strongly believe that given all the information we have and the vision and values that underpin all we do, it is the right decision for all our school and local community. As always, your support, resilience and patience is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Myton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

T Myton
Principal