



9 October 2020

Dear Families

Learning from home - school closure 21 and 22 October

We are writing to let you know that Goldfinch, Van Gogh and Dunraven's secondary phase will carry out *remote learning sessions* for children on **Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 October**. This means that the young people will learn at home on October 21 and 22 with teachers providing a mixture of 'live' lessons and tasks to be completed. **Please note**, Dunraven's primary phase will remain open on these days given that two days were spent at home earlier this term as a result of a water failure in the school.

We realise that this decision may cause a challenge for some families and therefore wanted to give as much notice of it as possible. We are sorry if it does cause an issue for you as a family; please let David Boyle know directly if this is the case (via info@det.org.uk). We hope that you will understand that we need to prepare for the greater difficulties that winter is likely to bring in terms of the virus; this opportunity to test remote learning practice will help us to provide a better service for your children between now and Spring 2021 by which time, we hope, things will be more certain than they are at present.

It is important that we know that the remote system for more 'live' sessions works effectively prior to the need for any future local or national lockdown period. It is also vital that we are able to support any family for whom access to remote learning proves to be a difficulty. We will send a survey asking for feedback from you about the learning experience and things that we might do to improve it further. Your child's school will be in touch next week with details of the timetable for 21 and 22 October.

This event also provides a 'circuit break' for the schools in terms of reducing the chance of possible infections as we head in the winter period. The increase in positive cases locally suggests that this is a sensible precaution.

A reminder that the half term break begins on **Friday 23 October** for all schools and we return on Monday 2 November.

We remain grateful for the hard work of our school leaders and their teams for all that they are doing to keep the schools as safe as possible for your children and our staff. We are also grateful to you as families for your patience during these challenging times. We really couldn't do what we do without your support.

Yours sincerely

Helen George
Chair of the Trust

David Boyle
CEO