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5 February 2021

Dear Students and Parents

First, we want to say a big thank you to all of you who took the time to complete our online student and parent surveys on remote teaching. We received a huge number of responses and are grateful for this as it has given us a better understanding of the experience of parents and students (in terms of both the successes and the challenges). We have analysed your responses and we have also taken feedback from staff on suggestions to make our offer even more effective and sustainable for everyone. As a result, we are writing to you to tell you about some small changes we are making to our remote teaching; these changes will begin on Monday 8 February.

One of the most significant pieces of feedback we received was around the challenges of managing 300 minutes a day online and on screen and a request for slightly longer breaks. With this in mind, from Monday, lessons will last 90 minutes, rather than 100 minutes, giving students a little more time to stretch their legs, rest their eyes and grab a drink or snack. Details of how this will change the school day are below. The way we will reduce to 90 minutes at Driffield School is through a 5-minute break within the lesson and by finishing the lesson 5 minutes earlier than normal.

A second strong theme, and something we have been aware of throughout, is getting the balance right between lessons that require students to be at a computer throughout the whole lesson and lessons that have a greater element of “offline” working. Again, from Monday, we will ask teachers to introduce more frequent tasks that give students the chance to work at their own pace or take a break from their computer during the lesson. For example: teachers may set more work where they explain a task briefly at the start, give students an extended task and then be available at a set time during the lesson to help those students who need support.

We hope that these changes will enable all students to benefit from high-quality online teaching, while removing some of the things that students, parents or staff are finding more stressful or challenging.

Moreover, we have been successful in providing devices to work on for all students who have told us they need them. If you have any issues at all in accessing live lessons and need to borrow some technology from us, please do get in touch.

We have no further news on when schools will open more fully. We are aware that on 15 February, the government will be doing a full review of available data on infection rates and



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the vaccination programme; we expect an announcement about the next phase for schools on 22 February. We remain hopeful that the success of the vaccination programme will mean that we can start welcoming more students back from 8 March, but we are entirely in the hands of the government, their scientists and the conclusions they come to.

Yours faithfully

Handwritten signature of Jonny Uttley in black ink.

Jonny Uttley
CEO

Handwritten signature of Scott Ratheram in black ink.

Scott Ratheram
Executive Principal



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