

26th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Google Meet and TeachStream Demonstration Lessons for Parents of Year 6 into 7

We are hopeful that by September we will have all students back in school on a full time basis. This is our aspiration as a school and that of the government. We face the challenge that if current social distancing rules are still in place, this will not be possible. In early July social distancing is being reduced to 1m and we believe this would allow us to get half of all students into school and spaced in classrooms at any one time. I explained the various possibilities we may be faced with for September in my latest headteacher update on <http://www.showme.com/sh?h=bkiJ7HU> in case you have not seen this.

There would still be major challenges in terms of breaks and lunchtimes and movement around the school should we be in the position that social distancing regulations are still in place. We face the possibility that we might need to return to school in September using a “blended” model of learning. This means some days learning would be at home and some days learning would be in school. All staff will be in school in September and we would need to cope with this situation by casting the live lessons to students studying at home. We are also able to record these lessons and post them on Google Classroom in case students could not join a live lesson from home. We are currently running such live interactions with students in year 10 and 12. Increasingly staff are also trying them with groups in other year groups.

Online learning over the last three months has used a variety of methods. Quite often staff have recorded parts of the lesson and students have picked them up as a screencast which is not live. Feedback from students tells that they have liked this as they can use it at the time they choose. Although online live lessons sound good in many senses, our experience tells us that they are not necessarily the best means of delivering lessons. Come September, if social distancing regulations are still in place, we will need to move to live lessons otherwise staff would need to teach a cohort of students in front of them in a class as well as another cohort at home and at the same time.

Many parents will have seen the live interactions we are currently using. Staff are able to use either Google Meet or TeachStream as vehicles for these. Many choose TeachStream for younger year groups as the controls are easier to manage a larger number of students. They often use Google Meet with older students. With both systems, we are now able to cast the live lesson from our interactive whiteboards in school which is proving much more effective as we can use the software capability of these devices.

We are keen to invite you to join a short demonstration lesson over the next week. We are running separate demonstration lessons for each year group. Each lesson will only last 15-20 minutes but will give you an idea of what a live lesson is like from a student perspective. Many of you will be very familiar with the experience as you will use similar technology for social or work purposes. Some of the systems we use are specific to schools and young people.

The demonstration for parents of students in year 6 into 7 will take place Tuesday 30th June at 4.00pm . The joining code is below. **You will need to ensure you have the latest version of Chrome or Firefox installed or it will not work properly.** The lesson will be delivered by Mr Woodman.

Start Time: Tuesday 30th Jun 04:00 pm

Join Code: BankRemainZipper

Join Link: <https://www.teachstream.co.uk/join/BankRemainZipper>

We hope to have all students back in school in September. If this is not possible, we are keen that you have a good understanding of the approach we will otherwise need to adopt and now is a better time to demonstrate this.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P.D. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Woodman
Headteacher