



Circa 1492

# Ermysted's Grammar School

Headmaster: Mr M J Evans

05 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Remote learning

Today all our pupils began what will be an extended period of remote learning. This letter is to inform you how this is expected to work.

Given that this is the first day of mass online teaching, there are bound to be some teething issues. Please do not worry. What is important is that we identify and solve any problems quickly, to allow everyone to settle into a rhythm.

There will be no form periods (for now), but pupils will be expected to attend **all timetabled lessons** via the Microsoft Teams platform. Except, that is, for core PE, though lessons in GCSE and A-Level PE will continue. Lessons will follow the normal timetable structure and replicate the existing staggered lesson timings.

Pupils should log in to Teams, using their normal school username and password in time, for the start of each lesson. If your son misses the initial invitation to the lesson, he should navigate to the class 'team', which can be found via the 'Teams' tab in the left-hand side of the window and go to the 'Posts' feed within the 'General' sub-heading. Most likely, if he scrolls down to the bottom of that feed, he will see that a 'meeting' is in progress and will be able to manually join the lesson, via the 'Join' button.

A guide to using Teams has been distributed to parents several times over the past month – please direct your son to it if he has any questions and direct him to the IT helpdesk if he encounters any technical problems ([helpdesk@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:helpdesk@ermysteds.n-yorks.sch.uk)). If your son is struggling to source a suitable device for remote learning or will need to share a device with another member of the household, please contact the IT helpdesk and we will see if anything can be done.

The aim of our remote learning strategy is to replicate the on-site experience as closely as possible. Our staff spent yesterday finalising curriculum plans for the next few weeks and discussing how lessons will be conducted. Teaching materials will be shared with pupils via Teams (not Class Charts). Staff will continue to record the homework assignments on Class Charts (even if the assignment is being set on Teams) to allow parents to maintain an overview of the work being set (as parents do not have access to Teams).

If you have fallen out of the habit of using Class Charts, please begin using the platform again, as we will use it to let parents know how well their son is engaging with remote learning. If any parents have forgotten their Class Charts logon details, please contact the School Office and we will reissue them.

We will let you know if your son fails to attend or turns up late for a remote lesson. There may be a good reason why, but we would ask for your support in resolving any issues quickly and helping your son engage with his learning. It is clear that we, staff and pupils, may need to maintain this effort for some time.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Evans**

Headmaster