



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well. Below I have included a number of updates.

### **An inspiring video to watch**

This week we have shared a video with our older students in exam classes. It's a brilliant piece of work edited by our very own Mr Le Broq. It depicts the importance of not giving up. If you get a chance, click on the link to watch it. <https://youtu.be/9MIRQztUnQE>

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DofE)**

It is with great regret that due to COVID-19 we haven't been able to run the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme as we had planned. With so many retractions much of it has become impossible. As a result we have decided to provide a full refund to all those that have paid for the award and activities this academic year. Our finance team will commence the reimbursements as soon as possible and will complete this by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. If you have any enquires related to your refund please feel free to email the finance department at school [finance@jogschool.org](mailto:finance@jogschool.org)

### **Supporting Students' Wellbeing**

We realise that at the moment things are very challenging for many of our students and not being physically in school has made some students feel that they need support with managing their emotional wellbeing. This has been echoed in feedback from parents and students. As a school we are continually working to offer students support, both through the targeted work of our year teams and pastoral staff and in more general terms.

The start of February is Children's Mental Health Week and we have put together some simple strategies and support for our students and families. Every PSHE lesson next week will focus on ways that students can work to improve their emotional wellbeing and suggest ways to cope with the challenges we currently face. A recording of this lesson will also be available on the school website for students and families to refer to.

We have produced a guide for parents and carers on how they can work with us to support their child in easy and accessible ways. Students will also receive an easy to access guide on ways that they can help themselves to feel better whilst school is closed to most students. We have looked at things to do, things to read, things to listen to and things to watch. Please look out for them, these will be published via class charts at the start of next week.

### **Attendance**

In response to our feedback from parents, this week we reactivated our 'truancy call' system; this automated system alerts parents and carers of their child's absence from school. During remote learning, we will only be sending alerts if your child has failed to register for any of the morning sessions – tutor time, periods 1 or 2. We hope that by alerting parents and carers of any absence, we



**The John of Gaunt School**  
A Community Academy

can continue to ensure your child has a high-quality remote learning experience. If for any reason your child cannot attend their Teams tutor time or first two periods, please report their absence by telephoning the absence line, to avoid being alerted of their non-attendance.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February (an inset with a difference)**

Next Friday we have decided to use our inset day slightly differently. As you will know, normally these are dedicated to staff training, however, across the term our staff have already undertaken a huge amount of additional training related to remote learning.

During the day there will not be lessons, however all children from Year 7 -13 will be given a personal appointment with their Tutor. This will be a time that they can log onto Microsoft Teams and have a one-to-one conversation with them. The conversation will be centred around wellbeing and provide an opportunity for children to share their challenges. Tutors will be able to check in on their engagement and where appropriate facilitate solutions to any issues that may have arisen over the term.

We know that there are times when students find it difficult to speak up during lesson times and therefore we hope by providing a one-to-one opportunity with their tutor it will enable them to open up with a trusted member of staff.

As always, if we can help and support you with anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Keep safe and well everyone,

Paul Skipp  
Headteacher