



AVANTI HALL
SCHOOL

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Important Safeguarding Message

Dear parents, guardians and carers,

Thank you to all students and families for your efforts with remote learning.

The vast majority of students that are logging on to Google Meets are doing so with their microphone muted and their camera off. I am aware that, currently, Google Meets mutes all individuals after the 5th person in but we are exploring solutions to this problem. However, cameras can be switched on and pupils really need to do so. From a safeguarding point of view, it allows staff to see their students and we know that they are safe and well. From a learning point of view, it helps teachers know the pupils are there, ask questions and give active support. It also supports us as a school with our welfare checks and provides opportunities to support your child's mental health by seeing other smiling faces, which is incredibly important during this time of national lockdown.

Currently, many staff and students are logging on to a black screen with lots of circles with initials in. Although there are some interactions in written chat feature, there is no sound except for the member of staff speaking to their screen.

I know that lots of our young people feel very self-conscious about being seen on screen and this can cause anxiety. However, if all students were putting their cameras on, no student would be in the spotlight and it would be no different to people glancing around their physical classroom. As a result, from next week, the school will be insisting on cameras being turned on and I would be very grateful if you would speak to your children about this over the weekend.

Of course, there may be children with educational needs that would have an exemption from appearing on screen. If this is the case, please would you email either Mrs. Rogers or me to inform us of this exemption. Our emails are at the bottom of the page.

Please may I also take this opportunity to remind young people that they should treat these lessons as a normal school lesson. That would mean they attend on time and dressed appropriately for school. In addition to this, I would also ask that video backgrounds are appropriate and do not detract from learning.

The next few weeks are going to be very challenging for everyone so I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you that we are here to help you if you are struggling. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the school and speak to form tutors, class teachers, phase leads, the SEND team or the Pastoral and Safeguarding Team if you need support.

I hope you have a lovely weekend, and we will see you on Monday.

Best wishes

Billy Lee

Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

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