Dear Parent/Carer

As we complete the third week of remote learning, I continue to be impressed by the high levels of engagement from our young people. A small number of pupils have not been engaging, or submitting work, as much as we would have hoped. In these instances, parents have received a letter or phone call from the school to offer support.

Whilst we are delighted with pupil engagement in core subject areas such as English and Maths can I ask that you encourage your child to complete the work in all areas of the curriculum, where possible. In First to Third year in particular, it is important that pupils experience a Broad General Education, this includes studying subjects such as Home Economics, Music, ICT and Art. It is also vital for young people’s health and wellbeing that they spend time away from computer screens and participate in some exercise and time outdoors. Our PE department have posted a variety of challenges and activities in the virtual PE Hall for pupils to participate in.

A number of pupils, across every year group, participated in a pupil voice questionnaire and the feedback was very positive. However, some pupils in the Senior Phase did comment that the timing of some live lessons clashed. We are working with Principal Teachers to rectify this and these changes are shown in the new timetable. A very small number also indicated that they did not have adequate access to a device at home. These pupils have been contacted and a device provided by the school. Can I emphasise again that if your son/daughter does not have access to technology at home, please contact the relevant pupil support teacher and they will be happy to support you with this.

On Tuesday evening I met with members of the Parent Council. I shared with them the results of the pupil questionnaires and we discussed the progress the school has made so far with digital learning. The feedback again was positive with parents commenting very favourably on the experiences that their children have had so far.

On Thursday and Friday, a large number of pupils took advantage of the opportunity to collect some essentials from our stationery ‘drop in’. It was lovely to be able to catch up with them, however briefly, when they came to collect materials. Some subject departments also used this time to distribute class materials to help support home learning. Pupils were informed of this via their class Teams.

Next week we return to the WEEK 2 timetable. I have attached an updated version of the Live Lesson Schedule. Please ask your child to check this thoroughly as the times of some lessons may have changed.

Finally, today we said goodbye to Miss Cannon, Principal Teacher of Music after more than 30 years of service to Taylor High school. As many of you will know Miss Cannon is a hugely popular teacher, with both staff and pupils alike, and she has made a massive contribution to our school community. Unfortunately, we could not give her the ‘send off’ she deserves but I want to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her service to education and wish her every success for the future. Taylor High will not be the same without her!

Kind regards

Mrs. L McGraw

Acting Head Teacher