



# THE THOMAS LORD AUDLEY SCHOOL

Part of The Sigma Trust

*Headteacher: Simon Essex BSc MA*

5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to confirm the message given to the nation yesterday by Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. We are now in a full national lockdown; this means that schools will remain closed until at least February half-term. Work will be set to support students to work remotely in all year groups.

## **Year 11 students**

I have no doubt that Year 11 students and their families will be feeling anxious about this news the most. I urge you all to remain as calm as possible and continue to engage with work fully. It is not currently clear what will be put in place for assessment for the Year 11 grades but I can assure you that as soon as this information becomes available to schools, I will share it with you.

## **Tutor Emails**

I will be asking tutors to contact your children every week by email to check in with them. This is a really important part of our provision. Please ensure that your child responds promptly to their tutor's email each week.

## **Remote Learning**

In light of the introduction of this full national lockdown, we will now develop our plans to deliver learning online as effectively as possible. This will mean some adaptation of our resources and we will be working with colleagues in school to make sure that the remote learning can be as effective as possible.

## **Students who are entitled to Free School Meals**

We will be making contact with families directly whose children normally receive Free School Meals. The Department for Education has confirmed that schools will be supporting families with this regard during the current lockdown.

## **Mass Testing**

It is not yet clear what, if any, testing the school will be asked to carry out in the next few weeks. As and when further guidance becomes available, I will share this information with you all.

## **Getting in Touch**

You should now be aware that over the Christmas period, we experienced a problem with the school's telephone line. If you need to contact the school, please email us. General queries should be directed to the email address: [enquiries@tla.school](mailto:enquiries@tla.school). For something that is more specific, please email your child's Year Team. (For example for Year 10, email: [Year10@tla.school](mailto:Year10@tla.school)).

## **Emotional and Mental Health**

I hope that you and your child have been able to watch my brief virtual assembly. If you have not, a link has been emailed to your child and will be posted on the school website. One aspect of this assembly was that I spoke about how we can all help our own emotional and mental health. Please familiarise yourself with the support that is available by visiting our webpage: [www.tla.essex.sch.uk/coronavirus](http://www.tla.essex.sch.uk/coronavirus).

As the Prime Minister said in his address, this lockdown is likely to be some of the most difficult weeks we have experienced during this pandemic. We must all do what we can to help the country to overcome the virus. Please stay at home to help protect the NHS and reduce the spread of the virus. This will be the best way we can all help to get the school fully open again as soon as possible. I really hope we can return to a situation that resembles 'normal' soon.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Essex  
Headteacher