



**Headteacher**  
Ranjit Berdesha BSc (Hons)

Heston Road  
Heston  
Hounslow  
TW5 0QR

**T:** 020 8572 1931

**E:** [info@hestoncs.org](mailto:info@hestoncs.org)

**W:** [www.hestoncommunityschool.co.uk](http://www.hestoncommunityschool.co.uk)

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Dear Parents/Carers

This week, the School has conducted a number of focus groups with students and staff. The purpose of these focus groups was to identify the current strengths and areas for development of our online provision. We are extremely pleased with the feedback we received from both students and staff.

Students were positive about their experiences of remote learning and praised staff for the manner in which they were being taught. There was a high degree of consistency in the feedback with students commenting on:

- The variety of engaging tasks in lessons
- The well planned and organised learning
- The clarity of teacher explanations
- Their increasing confidence in the use of Microsoft Teams to access their learning
- The opportunity to meet up and talk to friends during tutor time.

However, students highlighted that the intensity of continuous live lessons is a challenge. This has also been commented upon by staff in their interactions with students and observed at home, with their own children.

The following actions will be taken to support student well-being:

1. Starting on **Monday 25 January**, the length of live lessons will be reduced by 15 minutes for a single lesson and 30 minutes for a double lesson. During this time, students will be set an independent learning activity
2. Starting on **Monday 01 February**, students will have one afternoon a week devoted to improving their mental health and well-being.

We are confident these measures will improve the learning experience of our students. Whilst we all hope that we will be returning to School after half term, we must, as a community, prepare for the possibility that the lockdown may be extended. Students who were preparing to sit GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations this summer will be contacted with a further update early next week.

I would once again urge all our students and families to follow the National COVID-19 guidance. It is vital that we all work together to protect our community.

Yours faithfully

**M O'Hagan**  
**Deputy Headteacher**