

12 February 2021

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians

Next week beginning 15 February is our half term. There will be no remote lessons during that week, while students and staff have the opportunity to recharge and restore. Lockdown and remote learning bring different experiences to different households. One thing we all have in common is the need to invest in some rest, some fresh air, some exercise and some relaxation. Remote learning brings many rewards, but there are elements which are time-consuming, frustrating and exhausting. The first thing to do with half term is to look after yourself.

Our staff have put together the attached booklet of potential activities for students, because lockdown can also be boring. There are many organisations out there offering ideas and opportunities for new experiences. The booklet also contains reminders of sources of support, and you will find more on the Shimna website under the 20/21 button. Staff also share enrichment activities on the various Shimna Facebook pages.

For students in the examination years, half term is also an opportunity to catch up, to review what you have got done, and to invest a bit of time in organising your work, completing assignments and to put yourself in a good position for a fresh start to learning when we come back on Monday 22 February. Careers interviews for year 12 will continue and currently we are working through Jacqui Jones's and Irene Mathieu's maths classes.

However, students in the examination years also need to recharge, and it is most important that you plan in the rest, fresh air, exercise and relaxation.

Our student survey on remote learning is underway with well over 200 responses already in. Thanks everyone.

All our staff are very appreciative of the support of parents/guardians in every aspect of remote learning. Thank you all, well done and keep safe and well.

Kevin