



# Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Ryecroft C.E. Middle School  
Ashbourne Road  
Rocester  
Staffordshire  
ST14 5PB

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to express my thanks for all the positive emails we have received regarding the 'live' learning lessons.

It has been a huge learning curve for staff and pupils alike but now we have overcome the initial technical issues, it seems to be working smoothly and effectively. Thank you to everyone concerned for both your patience and perseverance in getting this system up and running so quickly. I believe our current provision will be instrumental in giving our pupils the tools and strategies to maintain, and in many cases, exceed their targeted attainment.

We have recently received a number of directives with regards to online safety that I'd like to share with you, in addition to the protocols already set out in previous letters. For safeguarding reasons, it is recommended that all pupils attending the live lessons do so with their cameras on, so that the teacher can check that the correct pupil is online and remains in attendance for the duration of the session or live element of the lesson.

We have also advised teachers to record all lessons so that we can monitor pupil attendance, pupils' online behaviour, as well as the teaching and learning. Many pupils have difficulties with attending all lessons each day at the allotted times and the recordings serve as a means through which they can catch up and not miss any of their learning and subsequent work. Pupils are aware that they are recorded and an icon appears on the screen to indicate that the recording has started.

If for any reason you do not consent for your child/ren to be recorded, please notify the school office on 01889 590394 or via email [office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk) by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 at the very latest.

Understandably, parents have supported their child/ren well to enable them to access their lessons and whilst we appreciate this, we would now politely ask that as they become more familiar with the system and the technology, that parents (and other siblings) ensure they are not visible or audible on screen. This helps us to maintain our safeguarding principles and encourages pupils to become more independent and resilient learners.

It has also come to our attention that group chats via WhatsApp and other forms of social media have been created and some pupils are using these whilst lessons are taking place. We would appreciate it if parents could remind their children to focus on the lesson in hand and ask the teacher for help if it is required.

We will be calling the parents of pupils who have not engaged with their learning over the coming days and weeks to see how we can help your child/ren to get back on track. In the meantime, if you are still experiencing any difficulties with our online learning, please contact us as soon as possible and we will endeavour to put solutions in place.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding during this period of change and adjustment, it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss R. Baramuszcak**  
Headteacher.

## UTTOXETER LEARNING TRUST

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