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15 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Microsoft Teams

I would like to inform you that from Monday 2 November we will be changing the way that homework is set for students. Instead of students accessing the SIMS Student App they will need to use the Microsoft Teams platform, this will be used to:

- Set and submit homework
- Support and enhance the curriculum
- Provide 'live' teaching and remote learning in the event of a full or partial closure due to COVID-19

Over the past few weeks, students have received training on Teams. To help you support your child I have attached, alongside this letter, a user guide which outlines the key functions.

We are moving to Teams because it offers far greater interactivity. Students are able to download and submit work; receive feedback online and also participate in 'live' video lessons. In this way we will be far better equipped to deliver elements of our curriculum on-line. The platform will also improve our ability to utilise technology within the classroom.

Up to Friday 23 October, there will be a cross-over period where teachers will begin the process of setting work via Teams. However, immediately after half term students will need to access their homework on Teams and not the SIMS Student App. Parents and carers will still be able to see what homework is being set via the SIMS Parent App.

In the event of the school going into a full or partial closure, Teams will be used to deliver a timetable of live lessons. More detailed information will be sent out in the event of a full or partial closure, including timetables and expectations during closure periods.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the school during this very unusual time. If you have any further queries or need further support accessing Teams, please contact info@furnessacademy.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr Stephen Kelly
Deputy Headteacher