



5th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we complete our first week of the final half term of the 2019/20 academic year, there continues to be uncertainties about what the rest of the year looks like in schools nationally.

The Year 10 and 12 mentor team have, this week started to make phone calls home to talk with both parents and students. The purpose of these calls is to chat with parents about how the students and parents are getting on and to offer any support possible. Mentors have then spoken to mentees to support them academically and again to provide support and guidance and sign post to pertinent information where required.

This seems to have been well received by parents and mentees and my intention is to widen this out over the next couple of weeks to Year 7, 8 and 9 students. I can ensure you that phone calls will be made to everyone, please be patient as we are giving quality time for each call and therefore it takes a while to get in touch with everyone.

As you can appreciate, we have to follow Government guidance and advice quite strictly given the situation. Significant work and modifications have been made to the school site, improvements and investments in technology have been made and processes and procedures put in place to ensure social distancing is a prime consideration as well as increased awareness and investment in cleaning and provision for personal hygiene.

The most recent update from the Government is that from Monday 15th June, schools should start to offer some further interactions with students in Year 10 and 12 in particular. We have already started making arrangements for this and can I thank parents in Year 10 and 12 for responding to the surveys which have helped to start making these preparations in advance. It is important to note though that this may still change when updated scientific information becomes available.

For the time being, work for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will continue to be set in the same way.

Our recent investment in video technology and conferencing will start to roll out over the coming weeks to allow these face to face interactions to be facilitated. On Monday 8th June, all staff are undertaking training in producing and providing lessons via our own Video Platform. This should give students the opportunity to hear from teachers and make learning more interactive and engaging and support the work that has been provided.

In the short term, we will also be using this technology to create online assemblies for students and to use for our Year 7 induction and transition programme. Following the staff training and when the resources start to become available, we will write to you with further details on how these can be accessed.

As you can appreciate, The Garibaldi School is closed to students other than those registered for the keyworker provision. Although we would love to see students and parents, we must ask that you do not attend the school site for any reason, to protect those working at the school and yourselves. I am aware, for example that the photographs for Year 11 have arrived in school. We will keep them safe for collection at a later date. Our reception is always staffed between 8:30 and 3pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30-2pm on a Friday so if you have any queries please feel free to ring and we will endeavour to help however possible.

My congratulations go again to this week's "Hall of Fame" nominations. Some great work and attitudes to learning demonstrated again by our wonderful students. A letter and certificate is on its way and a place on the school website has been reserved in readiness for student photos!

Until next week, best wishes and stay safe

Yours faithfully



Mr J Aldred
Head of School