



22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear parent/carers

In his letter last week Mr Aldred mentioned that he would keep you updated on developments relating to the staged re-opening of school. Steps have now been taken to prepare parts of the school site to safely accommodate staff and students, in limited numbers, after half term.

Based on updated Government information, we are exploring the possibility of engaging year 10 and 12 students in some 1-1 contact with school staff to support with their studies. Further details of this will follow once final arrangements have been made. During the next half term provision for students whose parents are key workers will continue to operate. This provision is only to be used as a last resort.

Future arrangements for a wider reopening of school will continue to be based on Government / Trust advice and guidance. The absolute priority will remain maximising, as far as practically possible, the health and safety of students and staff. The extent and pace of the implementation of these arrangements will be dictated by the Government's strategy to end the lock down. For now we will continue to set remote learning work for students in Year 7, 8 and 9 in the same way.

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week, a timely opportunity to reflect given the challenges that the COVID-19 emergency has created for everyone of late. We have recently added a Mental Health and Wellbeing page to our website, you can find this here <https://www.garibaldischool.co.uk/page.php?p=mental>. This contains resources related to Mental Health Awareness Week along with some of the Mindful Monday's presentations Mentors have put out to support students. This is also where you'll find a list of external providers, services and charities who can offer support to students and their families on a range of issues related to mental health and wellbeing.

As you know as part of our Attitude to Learning system in school we regularly encourage students to develop key characteristics such as resilience, self-motivation and determination in order to reinforce their mental health and wellbeing. At the end of what has seemed like a long, short half-term, we'd like to recognise the response of students and parents/carers to the particular challenge of remote learning. In a recent message to students I quoted John Adams, the 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States, who said "*Every problem is an opportunity in disguise*" – for everyone to take that approach at present is easier said than done. However the current situation does present an unparalleled opportunity for everyone to demonstrate their resilience. It's for this reason that we're incredibly proud of the way in which our students, your children, have responded. Things will return to 'normal' at some point and as my message to students said, while the current situation will test us, if we can make the most of the opportunities it presents, it will make us all stronger, better and ultimately more successful.

Further to this I'd like to draw your attention to some recently released Government guidance to parents on supporting secondary school students with remote learning. This page <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19> will complement the guidance the school has provided so far. Where you have concerns or a need for guidance relating to remote learning I'd encourage you to contact the school. We recognise the challenges you face in supporting remote learning and staff in school stand ready to offer support as and when needed.

Finally a big congratulations to this week's nominations for the "Hall of Fame" for the quality of work and exceptional attitudes to learning. A personal email/letter and certificate from Mr Aldred will be on its way to students in recognition. Until next week – best wishes and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

*Mr M Dawson*

**Martin Dawson**  
Deputy Head of School