



22nd April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Firstly, I hope that this letter finds you all well and that you have managed to have some down time over the Easter Holidays with families. Can I thank parents for the kind words and support received over the last few weeks?

As the new term begins, we find ourselves still in an unprecedented situation whereby the medium and long term future of students return to school and the societal position is unclear. What we do know, is that the school will remain closed for the next couple of weeks and therefore we will provide the next phase of work for students to complete at home.

I have written separately to parents and students of Year 10, 11, 12 and 13, earlier in the week outlining what the programmes of study, next steps and expectations are over the coming weeks.

Before the Easter holidays, we quickly established a new area on the website for the provision of work and information. We also introduced working via Microsoft Teams for all year groups. Staff and students have worked hard over the last couple of weeks to get to grips with the functionality of this website so appreciate the time given in doing so. I know there is a significant number of students who have accessed work and have started to submit projects and assignments to teachers.

We will continue to set the projects in this format to ensure some consistency over the short and medium term. For those that haven't already, if I can ask that students start to upload projects and work through teams so we can provide some feedback to them on the progress they have made.

Work for Year 7 and 8 is uploaded weekly and is available via the "YEAR GROUP" tab at the top of the school website. For year 9, 10 and 12, a timetable of study is available on the "YEAR GROUP" tab and work will be set by your teachers via teams.

I must stress that staff cannot hold 1-1 conversations with students via video or telephone. I am happy that students can email in or message teachers via teams and staff will respond to that. I am also happy that students who are entitled to additional support continue to receive support via the student support team. Please contact Mr Voice via email if your son/daughter requires this and we can schedule in time for this to occur.

The school remains open in a very limited capacity to provide supervision for students who are vulnerable or are children of keyworkers. A definition of key workers has been provided on the sign up page to check your eligibility. If you wish to make use of this facility please register your interest via the website and a member of staff will contact you to discuss this request with you.

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Whilst we must acknowledge that no work that is set will replicate the experience that students will have in classrooms with their teachers, I am keen that projects and work that is set, supports the development of new knowledge and skills which will support the curriculum when students return.

I continue to encourage students and parents, should they have any questions, to make email contact with mentors in the first instance. All email addresses for staff have been provided and are available on the staff list page. We will endeavour to respond as quickly as possible.

As a parent myself, I am aware of how much communication is sent from schools, in particular during the current situation. As always, I will try and keep correspondence to a minimum so as not to bombard you with too much information. I will write to you weekly to provide updates on the current position and if pertinent news becomes available, communicate this to you.

Otherwise, rest assured that there is plenty of work set for students, there is always a member of staff available to email and we are doing all we can to plan for an effective return to school as and when it is permissible to do so.

Best wishes and take care for now.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Aldred
Head of School