

21st March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Remote Learning

As of Monday, the vast majority of our students will be learning remotely from home until we are told by the government we can reopen our doors. This is a letter I never envisaged writing, and indeed a situation that as a community, I am sure no-one imagined would escalate so quickly. Thank you for working with us. This is obviously an unprecedented and challenging time for the country generally, not just in education. It is essential more than ever that we uphold our school values and #LiveLoveLearn together. As always, our priority is to keep our students healthy and safe whether they are in the building with us or not.

School will be open over the coming weeks to provide support for 'key workers' and vulnerable children. We will be operating with a skeleton staff in the school. Please only contact us to send your child to school if it is necessary; we will only reduce the spread of infection in our community if we follow government guidelines to minimise social interaction.

Our staff are working on a rota. If they are not based in school for the week, then they are working from home to facilitate the online learning opportunities we have set up. This pandemic has spread quickly, therefore I am sure you will appreciate we are still experimenting and learning how to use Microsoft systems that are not particularly geared towards education. In assemblies last week, I spent an hour with each year group showing the students that were still in school how to use Microsoft Teams. If your child was in school, they will have written notes in their planner and hopefully already had a play at home. If not, I have created a users' guide for parents that provides a step by step process as to how to access Teams, Hegarty Maths and GCSE Pod. Please see the attached PowerPoint document.

During this difficult period, I will endeavour to maintain as much communication as possible via a weekly letter to keep you updated of modifications, improvements or initiatives we launch to improve the quality of education we provide whilst students are not in school. Please be mindful that although our staff care deeply about your children, they also have families too, and as such there will be times when immediate contact cannot be made. There will undoubtedly also be teething problems with remote learning given the significant increase across the country in the number of people using online technology to facilitate working from home. As a parent, you can support by ensuring your child maintains their usual daily routine as much as possible by following their timetable at home. We will be continuing to use Class Charts to award achievement points for students dreaming big, showing determination, communicating with kindness, demonstrating resilience and being reflective.

Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Robbins

Headteacher