

As we approach 2 months of school closure, I thought I would update you on the current situation and the impact this is having on school. The school remains closed to all but the children of key workers and those vulnerable students during the COVID19 pandemic. Staff are regularly volunteering to come into school to support these students and they have formed a strong bond that helps those families that need the support of school at this time.

As I have previously said, we appreciate that distance learning can never replace the face to face interactions of the classroom and we are not trying to replicate school online. A recent survey of students shows that Google Classroom has become quickly embedded in their daily lives and that they have established good routines around the structures we have put in place to support learning. One of the crucial reasons for moving to Google Classroom was its functionality for feedback. The students have reported that this is working well and we will continue to try and make improvements suggested by the students in their feedback.

I have been constantly amazed at the generosity and commitment of our school community during lockdown. We have seen numerous members of the school community fund raising, volunteering, developing products, inventions, websites and making PPE for the NHS. Many of the emails and social media posts we have received from students and parents have proved inspirational during this challenging time. Although lockdown may have denied us access to many things, I also believe it will have reconnected a generation of parents and children to many things we have lost sight of due to our busy lives. Please continue to share your news with us as I know the staff have found them hugely inspirational and motivational.

Following the Prime Minister's latest update, we are continuing planning to explore the challenges of what a phased reopening of the school would look like. This is a very complex process and it would be dominated by how we could deliver effective learning and still maintain whatever social distancing measures are in place to reduce the spread of the virus. The latest announcement highlighted priority to those students in Year 10 and 12 who would be due to sit examinations in the summer of 2021. We have only just received guidance as to what this could look like and there are many questions that need to be satisfied before we could achieve this. The leadership team and the Governing Body are working closely with the local authority to ensure we can safely reopen when the time is right. I will update you further once we have had more time to seek clarity around what a phased return may look like.

This term would traditionally see a focus on students who are transitioning from primary into secondary school. We are working very closely with our feeder schools at present to continue the process of transition and we have made a number of short video clips to distribute to Year 6.



The transition team, led by Mr Wilson – Assistant Headteacher, are working hard to adapt our usual processes so a smooth transition can continue despite the restrictions we face.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, teachers and parents for their continued commitment to distance learning during this extended closure. I am very confident that the personal qualities and learning habits we aspire to create within our students are standing them in good stead during this unprecedented time.

*Mr Simon Jones
Headteacher*

