

27th March 2020

RE: Headteacher Update

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of the first week of school I wanted to update you on the current situation.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who have been in school this week supporting families and students. School has been open every day and has provided a safe and practical space for key families and students.

We are reporting to the Local Authority and Department for Education on a daily basis. The SLT and I are constantly reviewing guidance and monitoring the provision we are providing.

As we all begin to come to terms with 'lockdown', education continues to be in a constantly changing landscape and it has my full attention both as a teacher and parent.

Engagement with distance learning is very positive and statistics on ShowMyHomework show that the vast majority of our students are online and coming to terms with communicating with their teachers and tutors. We will be following up with those students/parents who are having difficulty getting online to ensure that nobody is disadvantaged in the current situation.

As the current 'lockdown' looks set to continue beyond Easter, we are exploring alternative platforms to complement the work set on ShowMyHomework. It is not feasible to completely recreate school online and I want to create a model that is sustainable should the current situation go beyond current predictions.

I appreciate that it is difficult for students without the routine of school. I would encourage all families to try and develop a routine that works for your individual circumstances that includes some daily engagement with the tasks set on ShowMyHomework. We will continue to try and encourage wider engagement with other opportunities to ensure that students get a rich and diverse experience during these unprecedented times. Thank you to the many students/parents who have shared their positive experiences so far, especially all the pictures of the baking you have been doing!

Whilst there is still great uncertainty around the awarding of GCSE, A level and vocational qualifications, we feel it is still vitally important that students in Year 11 and 13 continue to study and prepare as they would normally do at this important time. I have included two links that give you the latest position. I would be hesitant about drawing any conclusions from these at this point.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>



<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-on-2020-exams>

I am in regular contact with networks of Headteachers to share practice and support each other as we all try to navigate this challenging time. We have a common goal that is to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by the current situation. Staff are working with individual classes and students where necessary to gather further material to support any future submission of evidence that will help our students. As soon as I have any clarity I will communicate this to you.

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents, students and Governors who have shown their support for the school community during this time. Please keep sending in your comments, pictures and videos of how you are engaging with learning.

Please keep safe during the next few days and weeks.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Jones
Headteacher

