



20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a restful Easter break. Life continues to feel unusual, if not unsettling, to many within our school and wider community.

Many of you will be making an important contribution to protecting the NHS and keeping us safe as key workers. Others will be playing an important part in our fight against COVID-19 by following the instructions from Central Government.

Many of our teaching staff have applied to be NHS volunteers, including frontline support helping NHS staff with PPE equipment. Other staff have volunteered for the Local Authority telephone buddy system aimed at supporting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Whatever you have been doing to help at this time, thank you.

### **Home Learning**

I appreciate that students will be finding home learning challenging, as too will parents and carers. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of key things that may make learning at home easier.

- Ensure you are regularly referring to 'Show My Homework'. This is the main tool used by teachers to set work for students. It references important resources and materials to help with learning. Other important Apps include Accelerated Reader, Hegarty Maths, SENECA, Educake and Moodle. Please see our website 'Student Apps/Home Learning' for more details.
- Establish a routine. You can either use the school timetable, or devise your own to ensure that work is completed. It is important that once you establish a routine you stick to it, and remember to build in routine breaks. Students should be completing at least 4 to 5 hours of work as per the normal school day.
- Make time for literacy and encourage independent reading. You can support this by discussing what children have been reading, the storyline, plot, characters etc.
- Try to ensure your child meets any deadlines set for work to be completed wherever possible. If they miss a deadline, do not worry. Students should email the teacher when the work is due to explain when they can expect it. Our teachers are very understanding and we all appreciate it can be difficult undertaking work at home.
- If your child is finding work too challenging, they should not become worried or anxious. Our teachers are ready and willing to offer support and guidance, so please encourage your child to contact them.

### **Year 11**

I am sure you have been keeping up with the news regarding your child's GCSE grades which will be awarded by the exam boards and issued around the same time in August as they would have been under normal circumstances. We, as a school and as individual teachers,

cannot share any information with you or your child regarding grades as this would undermine the process for all concerned.

Your child's focus should now be on ensuring they are in the best possible position to hit the ground running in September. If they are going onto A level studies at Springwood, they should be working through the tasks and reading lists that have been made available to them and preparing to complete the summer tasks. If they are going on to study elsewhere, please contact that provider to find out what they can be doing in preparation.

Please also bear in mind, just as in previous years, that if your child is not awarded at least Grade 4 in English and/or Maths this Summer, they will need to continue studying these subjects with a view to taking the exams in the Autumn or next Summer. With this in mind, please ensure your child continues to complete revision and retrieval tasks, added to their 'Smith Proformas' which have been set by the English and Maths departments.

### **Important Notices**

- Year 8 Boys and Girls HPV vaccinations were due to be undertaken this week. Understandably these have been cancelled and we will advise of you of any rearrangements when available.
- Understandably our school has cancelled all planned trips for this academic year. We are currently in the process of arranging refunds to parents affected.

You may have seen in the press some of the amazing kindness letters that have been sent by our students to key workers and the elderly within care homes. Our school is immensely proud of all our students who are showing empathy and kindness to so many people in our community. Well done to each and every student that has participated.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding our students remains our top priority at this difficult time. If you have any safeguarding concerns about a student at our school you can call 07375 646648 between 9am and 3pm to speak to one of our safeguarding team.

Today we have added a new [Child Protection and Safeguarding COVID-19 Policy](#) to our website as an addition to our main School Safeguarding Policy to reflect the current change in circumstances. In Section 10 you will find links to helpful resources in relation to staying safe online.

In our 'Parents / Safeguarding Children' section you can find our latest information alongside a Police [Safer Schools Newsletter](#) which we have been asked to circulate to you.

Thank you for your continued support. Please continue to look after one another and stay safe.

Yours faithfully  
Mr C Jansen  
Headteacher