

24 April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I just thought I would write to you at the end of the first week back from the holidays to update you. I hope this email finds you well and your families safe.

When we first went into lock down I don't think any of us anticipated the length of time we would be in this situation. Colleagues at school flooded the moodle with work to ensure that all our pupils had something to do.

As it is becoming clear this situation will not end soon, we are refining our working processes. Subjects are now setting weekly tasks which they are expecting completed and returned to them for marking. Hopefully this will help pupils and parents to structure the work better. As mentioned before, we recommend that pupils try and follow the structure of their timetable in terms of the lessons they approach each day.

We are experimenting with lots of ways to engage with pupils but are always mindful of safeguarding implications.

These are unprecedented times and as teachers and leaders we are adapting weekly to the situations we find ourselves in. We have managed to keep the school open for vulnerable pupils and those of key workers - myself and other teachers working throughout the Easter holiday to do this. Many of our colleagues have young families at home themselves or are looking after vulnerable family members. We have a number of colleagues who have sadly been very ill with suspected COVID and a number having to isolate due to underlying health conditions. Like you, we are trying to find ways to manage work and the demands this situation has put on our personal lives.

Behind the scenes we are planning for the eventual return to school. We are looking at how we will ensure our young people catch up. Please do not worry about this. We will ensure they are not disadvantaged in any way from the other young people across the country. At the moment I believe that more pressing is the need to ensure the mental well being of our young people. These are difficult and frightening times and first and foremost we need to protect our young people from the mental strain of this. If that means they work less and play more then so be it. Leave that for us to worry about on their return.

The email contacts for each subject are below. If you have concerns about a subject matter then please do email them direct

I thank you again for all your support through these difficult times.

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