

Friday 17 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to HM Government's announcement yesterday that the current social distancing measures must remain in place for at least the next 3 weeks, I write again in a spirit of support and community, and to provide you with some updates.

Firstly, may I sincerely thank parents and carers very, very much for the many kind messages we have received. I am glad that parents and carers are finding these communications useful and I will, of course, continue to provide them. In these volatile days of uncertainty and anxiety, rife with speculation about what's going to happen next, and when, working together in support of our common goal that is the safety, wellbeing and educational development of your children, has never been more important. The spirit of community that is central to our work has never held such weight. Everyone, parents and carers, students and staff, are dealing with a range of concerns, emotions, pressures and anxieties, and whilst as a College we are endeavouring to retain some semblance of normality for our students — encouraging and helping them to keep a focus on their learning; to retain some semblance of structure, habit and rhythm that will support their eventual return to school — we know that these are not, by any stretch of the imagination, normal times.

There has been much speculation in the media recently about schools reopening. I can assure you that we will continue to ensure that you are fully informed with *the facts*, as and when they become known to us, and we will not add any more uncertainty to these already uncertain times by participating in such speculation. Some of the headlines and commentaries do not reflect the reality of the situation for schools, a reality that requires very careful thinking and about how the risks associated with reopening schools will be managed — the first principle of which will be the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. We are, of course, not responsible for the decision about when schools should reopen; this is a public health decision made by public health experts and we will continue to follow their advice. It is important to remember, nonetheless, that these decisions are dictated by the scientific evidence about the impact of the virus, and whilst we are of course looking forward to reopening and welcoming all our students back, please be under no doubt, our immediate focus must be on looking after each other, and, without hyperbole, saving lives. The Department for Education has made it clear that '[t]he coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is expected to continue having a significant impact on the education system, and the country, for months to come.' As such, we must make sure that the current provision of remote learning activities for students is helpful, manageable and sustainable, for us as teachers and for you and your child(ren).

Supporting Remote Learning

Further to my letter of 14 April, where I outlined for you feedback from parents and carers and students' 'keeping in touch' surveys, and the actions we are taking as a result to try and help students and families from being or feeling overwhelmed with remote learning, teachers should now, in short:

- Use Class Charts as the sole vehicle with students and families for the setting of work.

- Provide work, advice and/or instructions for each lesson, and ensure that this will only appear on Class Charts on the day their lessons are timetabled.

We will be issuing our second 'keeping in touch' survey soon, to ascertain again if there are further improvements we can make in supporting you and your child(ren) while this period of temporary school closures continues. In the meantime, I thought it may also be useful to offer a little advice about the use of Class Charts for parents and carers, so have attached at the end of this letter the relevant pages from the 'Class Charts for Parents Guide.' In addition, please remember that simply altering the settings on Class Charts might also help:

- When you open Class Charts and click/tap on 'Homework: To-do', tasks are shown in order of their due date, with the task with the nearest due date listed first. If you click/tap on 'Show by issue date', tasks will be arranged in order of the date they have been issued.
- If you then click/tap on the calendar icon, choose 'Custom' from the menu, and click/tap on the date range, you can choose for what date you wish to see tasks. For example, if you only wanted to see tasks issued on or still 'live' for today, 17 April, you would click/tap twice on 17 April.

As we progress, and as we iron out the issues that we are all learning about and from, I think and hope you will see an improvement in your — and your child(ren)'s — ability to manage expectation and workload, which will, in turn, remove or at least reduce any stresses that may inadvertently be caused by our ongoing professional commitment to provide all our students with effective remote learning opportunities.

GCSE, AS and A-Level grades, and Vocational and Technical qualifications summer 2020

The Department for Education confirmed yesterday, that A Level students will receive their results on Thursday 13 August, and GCSE students will receive theirs on Thursday 20 August, as originally planned. We will of course write to you again to confirm details about those days.

Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, have now confirmed that vocational qualifications, including the Cambridge Nationals and BTecs etc. that several of our students have been working towards, will be 'treated in the same way as GCSEs, AS and A levels, with learners receiving a calculated result'. As such, and for the avoidance of doubt, it is worth reiterating Ofqual's statement here that whilst any 'completed, or nearly completed, non-exam assessments' will be 'helpful to schools and colleges in deciding each student's centre assessed grades and rank order... [schools] should not ask students to complete their non-exam assessment work and [schools will] not need to submit marks for any completed non-exam assessment.'

On 15 April Ofqual opened a consultation to seek views of 'everyone with an interest' about the 'exceptional arrangements' introduced for awarding GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 29 April 2020. Should you wish to respond to the consultation, the proposals and information about ways to respond can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020

Progression to Post-16 study for Y11 students

Due to our closure, our Post-16 team were unable to hold their planned meetings with Y11 students who have applied to join our sixth form. We will now be holding telephone consultation meetings in order to discuss students' subject choices and to give help and advice regarding the transition into Post-16. Most of these calls will be made on Tuesday 21 April. If your son or daughter is in Y11, and you have any specific queries regarding the Post-16 application process, then please contact Mr Sproats on the email that follows. If your son or daughter is in Y11 and had not previously applied to return to our Post-16 but would now like to consider doing so, then please do get in touch; it is not too late. Mr Sproats can be contacted via email: nsproats@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk.

I thank you again very much for your continued support in these extraordinary times. And again, if you have any further concerns that you feel we may be able to help with, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please do adhere to the advice from HM Government, and continue to regularly monitor this advice.

As always, keep looking after yourselves, and each other. Stay safe. Stay home.

Yours sincerely



Derrick Brett
Principal

Links to current advice

(Please do check these pages regularly as they are updated constantly.)

- HM Government main coronavirus page
www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Okehampton College COVID-19 Latest Updates and Home Learning
www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk/covid-19-updates.html
- NHS Health information and advice
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
- Full guidance on staying at home and away from others (social distancing)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others
- Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable people at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people
- Guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19
- Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance
- Information for parents and carers about the closure of schools
www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers
- Free School Meals Guidance
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance
- Guidance for schools about temporarily closing
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing
- Maintaining Educational Provision (including 'Critical Worker' lists and principles).
www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision
- Guidance on vulnerable children and young people
www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people
- Guidance for educational settings on COVID-19
www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19
- Guidance for the public on the mental health and wellbeing aspects of coronavirus
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing
- Information on the cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020
www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020
- Information for schools, students and parents on how GCSE, AS, A level, vocational and technical qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020

Homework

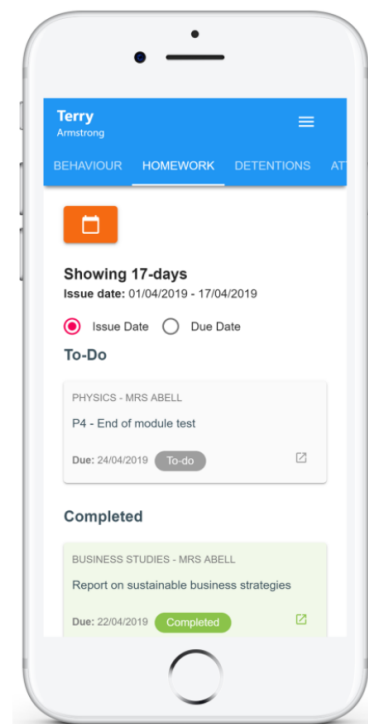
If your school has decided to share homework tasks with parents, you will see the [Homework](#) tab when viewing pupils from that school.

Selecting this tab will display a list of [homework tasks](#) which your child has been assigned to.

To change the date range for displayed homework tasks, click on the [Date](#) button to select from the available presets or create your own custom date range.

To display tasks in the order they were set, click on the [Issue Date](#) button

To display tasks in the order they are expected to be handed in, click on the [Due date](#) button.



To view a homework task in more detail, click on the [expand](#) icon in the bottom right hand corner of the homework tile.

A popup will appear that contains the a [description](#) of the homework task, the [estimated completion time](#) and any [links](#) or [attachments](#) that may have been included.



Homework Details

PHYSICS - 13C/PH1 - MRS ABELL

Issue date: 17/04/2019

Due date: 24/04/2019

Estimated completion time: 3 hours

P4 - End of module test

Please revise the following topics for the end of module test next **Wednesday**:

Homework status categories

To-Do: These are homework tasks that have not been ticked as completed by your child and have not been marked by their teacher.

PHYSICS - MRS ABELL

P4 - End of module test

Due: 24/04/2019

To-do



Completed: These are homework tasks that have been ticked as completed by your child but have not been marked by their teacher.

PHYSICS - MRS ABELL

P4 - End of module test

Due: 24/04/2019

Completed



Late: These are homework tasks that have been handed in past the deadline.

PHYSICS - MRS ABELL

P4 - End of module test

Due: 24/04/2019

Late



Not submitted: These are homework tasks that were not handed in on time.

PHYSICS - MRS ABELL

P4 - End of module test

Due: 24/04/2019

Not submitted



Submitted: These are homework tasks that have been handed in on time.

PHYSICS - MRS ABELL

P4 - End of module test

Due: 24/04/2019

Submitted

