

Wednesday 25 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I write today with some clarifications and in response to some questions that some students and families have asked.

Remote Learning

In terms of the provision of remote learning, we will follow our normal school year, meaning that during the Easter holiday period from Monday 30th March to Monday 13th April 2020 inclusive, teachers will not be setting work daily for students as we so far have been. Students will, of course, be provided with work to complete over that period in much the same way as they would be provided homework, and families do also have access to the 'Online Resources to support home learning' document that we have produced and distributed, and that can be found on our website. We will of course continue to provide reduced provision for vulnerable students and students of critical workers over the Easter period, and will contact those families who indicated that they intend to make use of this provision via our 'COVID-19 Reduced Provision' survey to confirm.

To reiterate the details I have provided in my letters regarding remote learning, where possible, the resources teachers provide will include solutions and model responses that will provide students with the feedback on their learning they need to make progress. Teachers may ensure this in numerous ways; they may be uploaded to Class Charts or provided in the form of links to videos etc. on the internet. Some subjects may also make use of online learning platforms where feedback is provided for students automatically and immediately (e.g. Sparx maths and Mathswatch in mathematics), and where teachers can monitor the progress students are making and plan for remote learning accordingly to this feedback.

In addition, Teachers will — where appropriate — provide whole class feedback around common errors and misconceptions via Class Charts and/or through subsequently planned remote learning activities. Communication with students will be via Class Charts, MS Teams and/or email, but please note that teachers may restrict communication to the whole class as responding to large numbers of individual emails will not be practicable.

GCSE, A-Level and other examinations

As I wrote yesterday, we will continue to provide work for Y11 and Y13 students during this period of temporary school closure. This, to reiterate, is because students may not be content with the calculated grade they will receive from exam boards (by the end of July) and thus may decide to sit the exams, as the government have stated they will have the opportunity to do so, once schools are reopen.

To this end, whilst we advise students to continue their preparations — and whilst we will ensure that teachers continue to provide remote learning activities for students as per their normal timetable — we will not make it 'compulsory' for them to do so, as of course, it will be very difficult to enforce remotely.

We should also make clear that teachers will be basing their estimations of the grade that they believe students would have received if exams had gone ahead, using the range of evidence I outlined yesterday *up to the time of temporary school closures*. In other words, in the absence yet of further guidance from Ofqual, when arriving at our estimations of the grade that we believe students would have received if exams had gone ahead, teachers will not be taking into account any of the work students choose to do remotely as, for many reasons, it would be unfair to do so.

Free School Meals

Further to my letter yesterday, parents and carers of students in receipt of free school meals should have received an email with a link to a survey that we are asking you to complete this by 6pm this evening. Once we have all the necessary information and detail, we can ensure that hampers are provided.

I thank you again very much for your continued support and patience. As ever, if you have any further concerns that you feel we may be able to help with, please do not hesitate to contact us, and of course please do adhere to the advice from HM Government — and continue to regularly monitor this advice — using the links I provide again on the page that follows.

As always, keep looking after yourselves, and each other.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Brett', is positioned above the printed name.

Derrick Brett
Principal

Links to current advice

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

- Full guidance on staying at home and away from others
www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others
- NHS Health information and advice
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/
- 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
- Information for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings
www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers
- 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
- Free School Meals Guidance
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance
- 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
- Ofqual's 'further' statement on coronavirus re Examinations
www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-a-further-statement
- Universities told not to alter applicants' offers
www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-told-not-to-alter-applicants-offers
- 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/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection