

Thursday 26 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I have spoken to some pupils today who are concerned about getting all the work they are being set, completed. We find ourselves in uncharted territory. I hope that you are finding the learning, teachers are providing, useful. We want to make sure that as far as is practicable, all our students can keep some continuity in their learning. We want to make sure that all our students are in as good a place as they can be with respect to their learning when we eventually reopen, by helping them during this period of school closure to embed learnt knowledge and skills. Our primary concern, however, is the wellbeing of you and of your children and I would like to reassure parents and children that we do not want to add any further pressure to the pressures families are already facing during these difficult times. We absolutely do not want families being stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by the learning activities we are providing remotely for our students. We know that parents and carers are juggling many commitments, including work, at the same time, and our aim is to work with you to support your child with their learning. Sometimes it is hard to get the balance right and so, if you have any concerns with respect to the learning opportunities and activities that teachers are setting, do contact teachers for advice. It is important that every student feels fully supported by the College.

I reproduce below, therefore, with **emphases** and **additions** for clarity, some relevant sections from the advice I have given with respect to students managing their time and work:

- It is up to students what order to complete the work during the day, but they would be advised to keep everything as normal as possible and follow the structure of their timetable. **If a lesson lasts for an hour and students find that they have not completed the activities by the time the hour is up, they should stop.** It is also important that they adhere to the lesson timings and break times, and **avoid the temptation to 'overwork'** or, indeed, to do too little.
  - We expect students to attempt the learning activities and work set, **as best they can.** And we will endeavour to provide support for them as well as the remoteness permits. **We understand that distance learning limits our ability to support students when they find activities difficult, and we want the children to understand this as well.**

As I outlined in my letter of 19 March, and have reiterated since, HM Government have confirmed that they are 'developing a national approach to providing support through supermarket and shop vouchers [and] will provide further details shortly'. You may have seen reports yesterday that this scheme is expected to be rolled out nationally next week, and I will confirm this with you as soon as we have received confirmation. Until then, of course, we will ensure that the hampers I outlined in my letter of 23 March are provided, as we started to do so today.

I thank you again 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. Please let me know if there is any further help I can offer.

Yours sincerely



**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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020)
- Ofqual's 'further' statement on coronavirus re Examinations  
[www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-a-further-statement](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)