Ref: Update Letter to Y10 Parents 240420

24th April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back to the Summer term. I hope that everyone is safe and well and managed to enjoy some relaxation with families over the Easter break despite Covid-19. You will be aware from the daily news briefings that schools continue to be open for key workers and vulnerable students in order to support the government’s plan for social distancing. The rest of the school community supports social distancing by staying at home and continuing learning from home. Currently we do not know how long this will carry on for, we are receiving daily updates from the Department for Education, and we will continue to communicate with you regularly in this fast changing situation.

As the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to evolve, I want to ensure that you are kept well informed with regards to what Court Fields School staff expect from your child in terms of home learning. It currently remains uncertain as to whether your child will in fact return to school as a student of Year 10. I am therefore writing to you to detail just how crucial it is to help your child maintain a well-structured learning journey at home in readiness for their return to school, whether as a Year 10 or as a year 11 student. Both Year 10 and 11 are as equally as important as each other. Our GCSE qualifications are offered as two year courses, therefore, the work your child is being set as home learning is a critical part of them securing the grades they want and deserve in Year 11.

We are continuing with the planned home learning as outlined in the parent guide before the holidays. It is really important that Year 10 students are accessing and submitting work following their normal timetable. All work will be set on ClassCharts and should be accessible via a smart phone, tablet or laptop. Students should complete the work set in their workbooks provided or online if they have IT access to other applications. Completed work should be returned to the class teacher via email or other applications (google docs). If working in the workbook provided students should take a picture of their work and email the picture to their class teacher for feedback.

If you have any difficulties accessing work or have any other, IT issues please do not hesitate to contact the school using the main school email address: sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk . We are now monitoring completion of work more closely and will be in contact where students are not engaging with the tasks being set. We have worked hard to build up the momentum of high quality learning and high expectations for all of our students, it is important that students maintain their routines and continue to build on knowledge and skills they have been developing.

We will however continue to review the work that is being set and make adaptations or changes as required, I am sure that you will appreciate the situation that we all find ourselves in is unprecedented, and all staff are working tirelessly to provide your son / daughter with continued access to high quality education. I also really appreciate the support that you as parents are providing during this time. If you could please take some time to sit down with your child and follow up on exactly what they have been doing in terms of their work, that would be most appreciated. I appreciate that this is not a normal position to be in and we are asking a lot from our 14/15 year old students to stay disciplined with their studies at what is already a very difficult time. But, it is vital that they keep up with their studies whilst staying at home. If your child is struggling with any of their work please do encourage them to contact their teachers so they can provide the support required.

Currently we are considering all the usual planned events that would take place during the Summer term for Year 10 students and will make changes where necessary. Unfortunately, we have had to make the decision to cancel the planned work experience week. This will not be possible under the current restrictions or even if restrictions are lifted this academic year. We have not taken this decision lightly and we will make sure that there are opportunities for career conversations as students move into Year 11. If possible we will seek to support students undertaking their Work Experience placements at the end of Year 11, once their exams are finished, and will update you with more details in due course. Other events of key importance to our students, such as Sports Day, will be rescheduled to allow Year 10 to complete their rites of passage at Court Fields School.

Students in Year 10 have planned End of Year Exams at the end of the Summer term. These Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs – formerly ‘mock’ exams) are vital in enabling us to identify gaps in knowledge and target focused support during the Autumn Term of Year 11. We will still be planning for these exams to take place, however the timing of these will be dependent on when we return to school.

Finally, I would like to say to all of our wonderful students that I have been really impressed with the quality of work that is taking place at home, and the ways in which you have been communicating with each other and your teachers. I know that staff are missing you all and we are really looking forward to opening again and welcoming you all back. In the meantime, please continue to look after yourselves and follow the guidance to stay at home and to stay safe.

Best wishes to you and your families. I hope that you continue to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Martyn Dudley

Deputy Headteacher