

19 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Years 7, 8 9, 10 and 12 children,

I hope you had a restful and peaceful Easter break. We are living in truly unparalleled times which require tremendous strength and resilience. I would like to thank all the parents and carers for supporting your children's learning and wellbeing while they have been studying at home. I also urge all families to continue to follow the Government's advice on social distancing. By doing this we will lessen the time we are isolated and bring closer the date we can return our school community to normality.

I am sure you are aware that the Government has extended the UK lockdown for at least another three weeks. This afternoon the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced that the Government had not yet set a date when schools will reopen. This means we will start the summer term with remote online learning until the Government changes its strategy. **Online lessons will resume on Monday 20 April at the normal time** – 8:40am for Form Time with period 1 at 8:50am. You can check the school lesson times [here](#).

We are aware that many families share computers, laptops and i-pads between children. We have therefore made a slight change to the way lessons will be delivered. We will continue to use Google Classrooms for all lessons; however, there will be two types of lessons. Some lessons will be delivered by teachers during the usual lesson time (Teaching Lesson), whereas in other lessons a task will be set which can be completed at any time and returned to the teacher (Task Lesson). In the second case, the teacher will be available throughout the normal lesson time to provide individual feedback and support on the task. For example, your child may have science during period 2 and the teacher has set a research project for your child to complete, but during period 2 your child will be able to contact the teacher and ask questions using Google Classrooms.

I really must stress how important it is for children to continue to log onto Google Classrooms and work hard on their studies. We have reached the point where we need to move onto new learning. If your child does not work hard at these new topics they will inevitably find themselves slipping behind in their knowledge and understanding. This is critical for Year 10 and Year 12 students who will be covering content which will be tested in their GCSE and A Level examinations.

The summer term is also a time when students are assessed in end of year examinations and parents are invited to meet with teachers to discuss achievement. We will review these processes as the term progresses, but in the meantime we would like to give parents some feedback on the quality of the work being done at home. Therefore, we hope to send a "remote learning report" to parents which will cover attitudes and progress made in the first few weeks of the summer term.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing. Please contact your child's Pastoral Manager in the first instance. You can find their email address by using the tabs on the right of the [school's home page](#). You can also telephone the main switchboard during office hours to speak to a member of the admin team who will pass messages on to relevant members of staff.

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While learning is important, please do remind your child to take breaks away from screens. They should also make time for exercise, games, fun and connecting with friends and family.

While we cannot say when we will be able to open the school fully, rest assured that we will continue doing our utmost to support our students learning and involved in the school community.

Finally, there will be a teacher training day on **Monday 27 April**. Work will be set for students to complete in Google Classrooms, but teachers will not be available online during this day.

Yours sincerely,



Gerard McKenna
HEADTEACHER

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