

ENFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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An Academy Trust
(Company No. 07697044)

Headteacher: Mr C Lamb B.A. Hons

3 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE FOR ENFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and your feedback over the past few weeks. I am very aware that there was an 'unfinished' feel as we were unable to continue to the end of term, but remote learning tools have been put in place to enable students to continue their studies. I know that there have been some difficulties with accessing some of these learning platforms, obtaining email addresses and passwords etc, but hopefully these issues have now been resolved.

Remote Learning

Most students are logging in to **REALSMART (SmartHomework)** and using **Google Classroom, Kerboodle, Activeteach, Mymaths** etc, to access the work that is being set. Please have a look at **REALSMART** to see what your son has access to. This will also give him the opportunity to show you what he is currently working on.

I appreciate that at the start of this process, your son may have felt overwhelmed with the amount of resources, materials and new topics not covered before, that staff had made available. I can understand that this has caused some anxiety and confusion, but with the help of your feedback and comments, teams have been able to evaluate the situation and manage a more sustainable long-term approach to remote learning. This will also help with student engagement levels and staff and student well-being.

The order that subjects are taught in is already being reviewed, to allow an easier transition back into timetabled lessons, so that learning can be continued rather than 'start again'.

After Easter, **REALSMART (SmartHomework)** will continue to be the main route for students to access work, mainly through **Google Classroom**. If you or your son are still having trouble logging in to **REALSMART**, please email ITsupport@enfieldgrammar.org. Many students are emailing teachers to ask questions or submit work and where necessary this should continue. I have asked staff to ensure that when publishing the tasks that are setting for students they also include details of how to submit the work and what the deadlines are. As far, as is possible, staff will try to keep to your son's timetable, with work being posted **in time for the day of the lesson**.

As a school, we are mindful about striking a balance between schoolwork and family dynamics. As a guideline, I recommend the following points below:

- Enfield Grammar School is expecting students to complete work during each school closure day
- Enfield Grammar School will try to help balance work with well-being and pastoral support via **Google Classroom**, phone calls and letters. This is to support parents/carers and students
- Enfield Grammar recommends a daily routine for school days/hours to include:



- Two to three pieces of school work;

- Time to connect with others throughout the day – break/lunch times;
- Daily exercise – outside whenever safety possible;
- Daily reading;
- Well-being activity/family time.

I am conscious that each household is different and of course, the priority is the well-being of students and their families.

Although there will be some work available over the Easter holidays, I am very aware of striking a balance and your son and his family's well-being takes priority. I do, however, hope that this will give any student who is feeling anxious or overwhelmed with the amount of work he has to complete, the time to catch up. After Easter, staff will be reassessing where students are at with regards to their studies and in some cases will telephone home to offer support where needed.

Year 10 and Year 12

I am obviously concerned about all year groups but Year 10 and Year 12 have to be particularly cautious, as their exams will follow the same timings, whenever we return. Therefore, they need to be particularly diligent in completing and emailing staff about work expectations during this period.

Year 11 and Year 13

The Year 11 and Year 13 also had an abrupt finish to their exam years and whilst there was nothing the School could do to foresee or change this, I completely understand the insecurity and unknown that this has caused. It is still unclear how the exam boards will advise the School to predict student grades, but I will let you know as soon as I have notification. Also, universities will inform schools, hopefully during the early part of next term, on exactly how they will manage Year 13 students as well.

For Year 11 students, I do not know how other schools/colleges will offer entrance to their sixth forms, but I would like to say to the students who have applied to continue their studies in our Sixth Form, we will do everything possible to ensure their place with us is secure. The courses still require a standard to be met and logic dictates that if your predictions meet the criteria your place should be secured – provided as usual, we have enough numbers for courses to run.

Where predictions are not quite where we would like them to be, we will talk to you individually and see if the courses you have chosen are a best fit for your strengths. This is the normal process we go through every year, usually in August, but the exam boards have indicated that this process will be able to take place earlier, which will enable the school to inform students what courses can be offered to them.

Please ensure that you complete any work you are being set during the months of April to June, as this would normally be the time where your time management, revision and application skills would be tested like never before, ready for your post 16 studies, which are a huge step up from what you have experienced to date. Any learning habits you can develop and use will help you so much in September.

We have asked staff to do three things over the coming weeks:

1. Finish off any courses that were not completed.
2. Allow your revision activities for any summative, modular assessments they have not had time to complete.
3. Prepare work ready for Key Stage 5 – both skill based to allow independent learning to develop and knowledge based so that you keep the foundations in place that you need to be successful at Key Stage 5.

Each department and group will receive a different balance of these, dependent on where students were in the course at the time we needed to close. Please also be reminded that the Department of Education has also said that you may have the chance to sit these exams in the future. This would enable you to challenge any grade you have been awarded. If this is the case, students must finish the course and learning that is asked of them over this period.

I will ensure that you are kept informed of any information that is received during the Easter period and beyond.

Thank you so much for all your support and understanding during this challenging period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Burke'.

Mrs D Burke
Deputy Head - Curriculum