

19th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update Number 7

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and enjoyed the lovely weather if you were able to get out - even just for our daily hour walk. I am writing to you as we return to the new term, even though it will be our first remote learning summer term, to update you. Over the holidays I have been meeting remotely with the staff and the senior team at CVEA. We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the chance to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during these difficult times.

From Monday we will re instate schooling as we did before the Easter break. Each week we will be expecting ALL students to check in with their tutor on Wednesday so they can engage in a brief exchange ensuring that staff know they are safe and well. We will follow up any students we cannot contact. Those more vulnerable students will have had contact over the Easter break and will continue to have contact each day as the new school virtual term progresses. Please try to make this easier for us all by ensuring your child has made the contact with staff. Behind the scenes we have this all logged and will take the necessary social care or police action if we cannot get to speak to all students via e mail or phone.

It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. We're here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. To try to avoid tension with home schooling for parents we have tried to review what we are actually setting. In Year 7 and 8, we will focus on project work, research, comprehension, quizzes and tests in many subjects. Maths will continue with on line work and PE will be offering work outs and fun physical activities you can all do as a family. Year 9 and 10 are a little more challenging. I have asked staff to follow the same schemes of work and learning that we would do in school trying to ensure it is all GCSE work. This is important for Year 10 especially as they need to try to keep up with the GCSE syllabus and standards without having their teacher directly in front of them. We know that this will be a challenge for students and for parents. Please do not get anxious if you are struggling with it just let the HOY know of any problems and we will be there for you.

Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school; please let us know by use the enquiries e mail which is looked at each day or e mail the HOY who will direct your call to the most appropriate staff member. If your child has any issues at all, they should contact their HOY. Safeguarding issues need to be sent to Ms Woollett or will be directed to her should there any one have any issues.

Year 11 do not have any work set for their GCSE's. As communicated to you earlier the GCSE grades will now be awarded via Teacher Assessment based on mock exams, homework, classwork etc and they will be moderated by the exam boards and Ofqual. Today I have read that the GCSE's will come out on the same day as previously planned – 20th August. I will however confirm this to all students and parents as soon as we have this as a formal notification. There is much in the news today about schools returning and phasing in some students, part time suggestions and various ideas. We have no official notification of this and at the moment schools remained closed. As new information becomes official I will update you. Year 11 students who are going on to complete 'A' level subjects and college courses should take part in the work that staff will send out. We have access to bridging units of work to help them get ready for 'A' levels and college – we would encourage your child to try some of this in order to prepare for September.

Our admissions for September are progressing and we are still planning this behind the scenes. We are again heavily oversubscribed and appeals will begin to take place with the Local Authority, as yet I am unsure what they will look like but the process will take place.

Those parents entitled to Free School meals should have received a voucher for the Easter break. The national system has posed huge issues across the country but it is starting to roll out now. Again any issues contact us.

There is more discussion in the news today about the DfE providing laptops and internet access for vulnerable students. Again we have nothing official on this other than the various newspaper articles so when we get more information I will be straight onto that to get whatever we can for our students who meet the eligibility criteria.

We miss having our students in school, but we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. So, we're carrying on with our remote learning plans. We also want to increase some of the 'fun activities' such as our competitions and home exercise. Watch out for some more great ideas to do at home. Fun but educational for all the family!

Our staff will be setting plenty of tasks for pupils to get stuck into over the summer term. Do remind your child to take breaks away from screens as well, and also make time for having fun and connecting with friends and family.

While we can't say yet when we'll be able to open the school fully, rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep student and parents up to date and learning together.

Once again, if you need any help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are thinking about you all.

Mrs Bridges

