



SIR THOMAS BOUGHEY ACADEMY

Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope everyone is looking after themselves.

We would like to provide an update on the home study arrangements that are currently in place for your son / daughter. It could be that the work students have received appears a little overwhelming at this moment in time. It is new to all of us and we are all trying to work our way through it, we are all trying to achieve some semblance of rhythm through the coming weeks, but this also needs to be a rhythm that works for each of us according to our own individual circumstances.

This applies to everyone – it is important that the wellbeing of students, parents / carers, and staff is considered during this challenging time. Please be aware that, due to staff having to look after their own children, or their sick relatives, it is possible that they are having to work outside of normal working hours. It is for this reason that we ask that you encourage your son / daughter to switch off access to, or ignore, Teams and emails after 3.30pm - to avoid them receiving alerts to, and being disturbed by, new work that has been set.

With this in mind, we would strongly suggest that, where it fits with your own family's circumstances, all students work according to normal school hours, between 9am and 3.30pm. Outside of these hours we would strongly suggest that students avoid looking at work schedules or homework requests, and certainly should have absolutely no sense of an obligation to respond to them at such times.

We would also like to clarify expectations with regards to the marking of work. Periodically, staff will be providing group misconception sheets, which are documents that will enable students to understand where fellow students have made common mistakes, what they have done well and what they need to do to further improve their work. To support staff with this, it would be helpful if students could click 'Handed in' on Teams, rather than sending emails to staff to state that the work has been completed. With the high volume of queries about work coming to staff, they will not always be able to answer, especially if they are manning provision at the academy for children of Key Workers. TEAMS does allow students to communicate between themselves to support one another in learning.

Staff have also been asked to set, where possible, work that does not always rely on watching videos, clicking on links to websites etc. as feedback is suggesting that students are struggling to access such links due to internet issues.

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The last thing we want, or need, at this moment in time is for our school community to feel anxious, overwhelmed, and under pressure by the work that is being sent home. We all need to be sensible. Minimising stress is vital in a time like this for mental health. All we ask is that we support each other, we look after each other, and we stay safe.

Remember that we are still here for you, should you need us. We will continue to do the best that we can to support your son / daughter and we know that everyone is doing their best in a difficult set of circumstances.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your on-going support during this challenging time.

Look after yourselves and your families.

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Hingley

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