

Thursday 7th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well.

As we now approach the end of the fifth week of remote learning (not including the Easter break), it seems that 'normal' education, where all students attend all day, will not be returning any time soon.

We are incredibly proud of the way in which our school community has responded to the new challenges and I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we will do everything possible to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by these unprecedented events.

The new 'normal' involves everyone adapting to new working arrangements – and this will not always go smoothly. However, please remember that the excellent pastoral support is still in place and is available through the usual channels of communication.

There is no doubt that learning has been subject to the biggest changes we have ever seen, and this will continue to be the case for some time. Please be aware that over the medium term, it is likely that students will not be in school for a full curriculum, and remote learning is here to stay for some time yet. We are very much aware of the challenges being faced at the moment, and we will continue to work together to solve any concerns in a pragmatic and sympathetic way.

It is really important that we continue to ensure your son / daughter is engaging in regular schoolwork and is submitting work to their teachers. Your support in this is very much appreciated. Communication with school regarding any problems encountered with remote learning is essential as it means that the stress created by these issues can be resolved and your son / daughter can engage in the work set. Please don't hesitate to contact us regarding any concerns you may have about your son's / daughter's engagement in home learning – in fact, we would welcome such conversations.

Last week alone, House Leaders contacted in excess of 160 families to resolve home learning arrangements, all of which achieved a positive outcome. If you are contacted, please remember that the offer of support is coming from a good place: we are trying to establish support that could be required to achieve a healthy approach to home study and do as much as we can within the current circumstances to protect the education of our students.

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**SIR THOMAS
BOUGHEY
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We continue to 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. If your son / daughter is not managing to complete their work within these times, then do contact us for further suggestions and support.

As Friday 8th May is a bank holiday, we will not be expecting students to complete work on this day. Although the VE Day 75 Celebrations are now being confined to the UK's homes, we hope you will still find ways to mark the occasion, whether that is making bunting, designing an image of a Second World War soldier to display in your window, joining in with the two-minute national silence at 11am to remember the declaration of the victory and the end of the Second World War in Europe, engaging in an at home afternoon tea party, or listening to the address to the nation from the Queen. However, you choose to mark the occasion, we hope you will stay safe.

When we have further details about the partial opening of schools, we will be in touch but, for now, we need to endeavour to give students the very best learning experiences that we can and, now more than ever, we need to work together to ensure that happens.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any concerns, or indeed suggestions.

Take care and please stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Hingley

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