

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are at the end of another week and I hope you and your families are all well.

I am really grateful to parents who are monitoring their child's work; I was worried that after the Easter break, some children would find it difficult to engage. As I have said before, I know children will not have the same quality of work or response at the moment, but it is really important that they keep up with it and keep their minds active. This is healthy and beneficial to their progress and well being. This week, in a remote meeting with the creatives team, we have decided that some lessons, such as music and art, may not be set like other lessons, but may be an activity where children visit a gallery online or research a famous artist.

I have spoken to many of you this week and the messages I am hearing are that firstly, some of you feel we are setting too much work, or telling us your daughters are feeling a little overwhelmed with work. Secondly, many of you have asked for an overview of the work so you can see what is being set and are better placed to monitor it.

In response to your first point, all students have been sent a guide for organising their day according to their timetables. Some children prefer to work on projects for longer periods of time rather than working to a timetable, but if they do this, they must let their teachers know. Otherwise, when their teachers are looking on Google Classrooms to see what students are doing, it may look as if they haven't been working at all. The senior team have a daily overview of every student and every subject so we can see exactly who is doing what and call home if necessary. I would prefer children in years 7, 8 and 9 to stick to timetabled lessons. However, I accept that some older children need less structure or prefer to engage in a project and see it through before starting something else. Teachers have also had a guide that requires them to set smaller chunks of work, releasing or posting the work just before the timetabled lessons and setting clear instructions for what they would expect to be done by the end of the lesson. They will check in or monitor the lesson on Google and be on hand to respond to questions or requests for help.

In response to your second request that we let you know what your child has been asked to do, I have sent you all a text with a google form attached. Please add your email address to the form and then we can link you to your child's Google Classroom, and each Friday, as parents you will receive an email summarising the work your child has been set for that week. It will show the subject, the title of the work and the brief overview of what your child needs to do. (This will not be sent to parents of year 11

and 13 students). We do have most email addresses, but in case they need updating, this is a good time to update us. On Monday, the data team will spend time cross-referencing your email addresses with the ones we have on file and adding them to your child's google account. I am also organising a way of sending you your child's timetable so you can see what lesson they have. Each student also has a copy of their timetable in their planner .

On the website, under the 'Distance Learning' link, you will find another link, 'Wellbeing and Care' . This has a list of activities to support families and it also identifies where you can go for help, should you need to do so. We will add to it throughout this period of isolation.

As usual, you may receive a call from the wellbeing team -- particularly if you have been worried about your child or she is vulnerable for some reason. The senior team have also been making calls to parents to keep in touch, say hello, and seek your views on what we could do to make this time easier for families.

If your child is in year 11 or 13, then I will be contacting her today through Google as usual, with an update on exam grades.

Once again, I am so grateful to you for your support and I wish you all a very safe and happy weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Harding