

20 May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I thought I would write to you to bring you up to date with some news and our immediate plans for school life as the Covid-19 emergency continues.

Years 7-9 and online learning

It is clear from government guidance that it is unlikely that Years 7-9 will be back in school until September. We will therefore continue to provide and further develop our online learning provision. Last week we introduced a new work timetable to help you and your child organise their online working week. We will be in touch after the half term break to see how this is working. Subject teams are also considering how best to develop more direct instruction within our online learning programme. Whilst live lessons will continue to be the exception, we will increase our use of other approaches (e.g. narrated slide presentations) to give greater opportunity for staff to explain and “teach” knowledge and concepts more directly.

Going forward, subject teams are considering the impact of the school closure on their curriculum planning and especially as we approach the new academic year. We are as concerned as you that students don’t fall behind and we will explore different approaches and strategies to address any gaps in knowledge and understanding that may have opened up for students and consider how we can support robust progress going forward .

Year 10 and re-opening rumours

The government have expressed an ambition that, when it is safe to do so, schools will start to open to more students into the second half of the summer term. Certain primary school year groups will be welcomed back to school and in secondary schools, we have been asked to prepare for students to have face to face opportunities with staff to support their online learning. Much thought and planning has been going on around this ambition and I will be sending out an additional letter to year 10 parents to outline our approach and to ask them for some important feedback.

Special secondary school provision

Miss Burns wrote to parents earlier in the week ([click here for letter](#)) to outline the plans for our special secondary provision for the children of key workers and other identified groups. We would urge you to respond to this letter so that we can plan accordingly. The secondary provision will commence from 1st June from 9.00am-3.00pm. In line with year 10 students who may be in school at times, we will be asking students who attend the special provision, to follow strict social distancing and other health and safety requirements.

Summer Uniform

As is our tradition, the second half of the summer term heralds the introduction of our summer uniform. Whilst we don’t expect students working at home to wear uniform (!) we are asking all students who are in school (including those in the special provision group) to adhere to our summer dress code (where blazers become optional).

The Pulse

Despite the school being (physically) closed, a great deal has happened in school life and so, as is our usual tradition at the end of each half term, we will be publishing an edition of The Pulse. It’s a bumper edition and just goes to show how much is happening despite the lockdown.

Mrs Williams - Retirement

This week we say farewell to Elizabeth Williams from the English team who is retiring from the profession. Mrs Williams has had a distinguished and long career in teaching inspiring thousands of students in their studies. She was one of the original team who established the school and has been a passionate supporter of all that we have done. She has seen her tutor group all the way through school and has also done an immense amount to support a love of reading among our students. We hope to invite Mrs Williams back as soon as possible to say a proper farewell, but for now we wish her well as she starts a new chapter.

Half-Term break

Finally, I would like to confirm that the school will be closed for the half-term break from 25-29 May. Online learning and our special provision school will begin again on 1 June. We will confirm with year 10 the position regarding some face to face support as soon as we are able.

Please can I encourage you to continue to follow all government advice, especially in observing social distancing. We all hope that the situation will improve in the next few weeks.

Stay safe and have a good break

Yours Sincerely,



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher