



3 April 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first two weeks of the school closure and home working we want first to thank you all for your support, your hard work and your flexibility in adapting to such unprecedented circumstances. There are many students, parents and staff across our community having to deal with extremely challenging circumstances and the resilience which is being shown by so many people is just amazing. As our communications with you continue to stress, the most important thing that we must all continue to do is to connect with each other, support each other and to keep each other as safe as possible.

We have received feedback from students, parents and staff about how things have been going over the last two weeks and have received a very large number of responses to our student and staff surveys. In response to this feedback and as we are about to enter the two week Easter school break, we wanted to let you know how we propose to approach home working from Monday 20 April, when school would have been due to open again after the break.

The key messages are as follows:

## The Setting of Work

- We will continue to use the Show My Homework platform for the setting of all work to be completed at home. Where staff are using Google Classroom, we will make sure that this work is also signposted on SMHW.
- Wherever possible and appropriate, we will set work each day for the subjects which students would have lessons on their timetable for that day.
- We would ask students to spend approximately 45 minutes on the work that has been set for each subject, although more time might need to be spent on subjects where a double period lesson would have been taught.

## Completion of Work

- We will continue to monitor the completion of the work set by checking our SMHW logs and by class teachers feeding back where work is not being completed as asked for in SMHW.
- We will of course be sympathetic to students who have good reasons for not being able to complete some of their work.
- In the first instance, class teachers will make contact with students who are not completing work to see what the difficulties are and whether further support is needed.
- In some cases, tutors, house heads or members of the leadership team may make contact with parents where we have not been able to get a response from their child.

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## **Feedback on Work**

- We will continue to provide feedback to students on key pieces of work.
- In some cases this will be individualised feedback, in others it will be whole class feedback which would in normal circumstances have been delivered in lessons.
- Students should continue to respond to this feedback in ways which improve their work and enable them to make progress.

We are extremely appreciative of the very supportive messages which parents have been sending as we all adjust to our current situation. We are sure that there will be further developments in our approach to home working as more information emerges about the length of school closure.

Over the next two weeks of the Easter break we will not be sending out further communications and we will not be setting any new work for students to complete. We would also ask for your understanding that you should not expect responses to email messages sent to staff over the next two weeks.

We hope in the meantime that you and your families and loved ones remain safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Ms J Mortimore  
Headteacher