

27 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the first week of our new way of working has gone well and you are finding some semblance of a routine. This has been a learning curve for us all, and with no end on the horizon, we will continue to review and improve our home-learning programme as we go. We appreciate that you are not teachers and are trying to juggle working from home yourselves; I am sure you will all be developing your own unique approaches and schedules. Who would have known a week ago, for example, that the Joe Wicks HiiT workout at 9am would become an essential part of the daily schedule for so many! We are also hearing stories of the difficulties associated with getting teenagers out of bed, doing any exercise and eating anything that resembles a balanced diet. Many of us are struggling with the exact same issues with our own children; ***we can only do our best***. It was with the above in mind that we agreed to set work for the week ahead rather than lesson by lesson and so this is what we will continue to do for next week. Everything that is in the home-learning document that we sent out last week (also on the website) still applies, so please have another read to remind yourselves. Please remember that ***teachers are still there to support you and your children*** albeit via email rather than face-to-face.

It has been a rather frantic period of ***communication*** but this will slow as we adopt a 'new normal'. You will hear less from me and more from others in the coming weeks, for example, each Head of Year (Years 7-10) will be putting together a bulletin to keep students and parents up to speed with news from/for the year group.

After Easter, assuming we remain in the current 'school closure' situation, we will be considering how best to check completion of and/or providing feedback on work completed. This is something we will need to think about carefully to ensure it is appropriate and reasonable for students and teachers alike.

I know I speak on behalf of all the staff when I say thank you for the support you have shown us in such testing circumstances. I do hope you are all keeping safe and are managing to keep spirits high as we look forward to our first 'lockdown weekend'.

Yours faithfully,



Tim Rand
Headteacher