

CV update for parents April 3rd 2020

Dear parents/carers

Today marks the end of the Spring Term 2020 and the start of the Easter break. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you are given to the students in their home-learning, to provide some further information about the education we shall seek to provide to your son/daughter after the Easter holiday and to signpost the now published guidance for schools on the awarding of grades at GCSE and A level for our Yr 11 and Yr 13 students.

Easter Opening

School will continue to be open for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable students only through the Easter holiday including Good Friday and Easter Monday, staffed by volunteers from our staff team.

'It is not business as usual' unfortunately

I'm sure you'll agree that life at the moment is not business as usual and schooling and education is affected by this too. We cannot possibly hope to replicate the depth and breadth of the usual curriculum nor the usual level of pastoral support when the school is closed. However, we shall do our best.

What you can expect after Easter

Our teaching staff are on their holiday period from school from tomorrow. When the summer term starts on April 20th 2020 departments will be providing programmes of work that cover the half-term up to the end of May.

- We shall try to provide structured work for each subject broken down into manageable sections and with manageable deadlines. In most subjects this will culminate in the production by the student of an assignment that they will then be able to submit and receive feedback on.
- We shall try to avoid bombarding you with too many emails as we recognise that this can feel overwhelming and difficult to keep track of.
- Work will be posted on Show My Homework and students will complete much of it via Google Classroom.
- Students **MUST** check their school emails at least once per day so that they do not miss work or other instructions
- If you have difficulties accessing this work or do not have the IT resources at home that your child needs then please contact us and we can assist you with this.
- We do not intend to replicate the school day and will be setting what should be around 3 hours work per day for students. This recognises the realities of trying to manage home-schooling, the demands on parents, teachers and students who may themselves be ill or self-isolating and the need to balance academic studies with other forms of learning. There is an opportunity to do things that are fun - baking and cooking for example - and to take up new interests. We are providing lists of possibilities in Family Matters and on our website regularly and departments are also adding their own suggestions.

Grading of GCSE and A level courses

Advice has been published about the process to be used and a copy of the letter to students can be found using the link below.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter to students - Summer 2020 grading.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf)

Help and support

If you need help or support during the holiday period you may contact the school during the opening hours next week of 8.30am to 3.10pm and we shall do our best to assist you. While free school meals are not usually provided over the Easter holiday because the school is shut, we are supporting those families with additional voucher payments to cover the two weeks of the Easter break, because we recognise there are families experiencing significant financial strain at this time.

After Easter we shall also be contacting all students and their families by phone fortnightly just to maintain contact with everyone. Almost all staff will be involved in this process which is not intended to be in any way intrusive but to see that everyone is OK and managing at this time and if anyone in our Holy Family community needs anything that we can help with.

Easter Week

This Sunday is Palm Sunday and next week is Holy Week. As you know the churches are all closed and this is going to be a very strange Holy Week. There are online services to follow and I know many of you and your families will be doing so. Please keep everyone in our school community in your prayers at this time and especially remember all those working in our NHS and in other essential services. I'm grateful to all my colleagues who have willingly come in to school to supervise those students attending and to keep things going from an administrative point of view.

Best wishes for Easter

Dr Andy Stone
Headteacher