

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you to so many of you who have contacted us letting us know how the 'home schooling' is going. I am confident that at the end of this period there will be numerous adults from across the country deciding upon a change of career to work in schools! But, seriously, it is great to hear how well so many of our pupils are taking charge of their own learning. It could be that we do not return to school for quite a while, and it is vital they continue to complete the work that is being set. I have no doubt there will be some pupils who do their best to 'not bother' with the work. If your child demonstrates that sort of reluctance it is vital you put whatever measures into place that you can to get them to do it. This applies to all pupils, but it is absolutely crucial for those in Years 9 & 10.

It is very difficult to do 5 hours per day of self supported online study. We have set work for KS3 pupils that should take them approximately half the time we would normally see them in lessons for, for each subject. So, they should be doing more of some subjects than others. Year 10 pupils should be spending the amount of time they would normally spend in lessons on their work. Can I stress again that the easiest way for them to access Office365 is through the 'student area' of the school website. We had several technical queries earlier in the week but they seem to have been resolved. We have also emailed all pupils some self-help technical advice.

This is a great opportunity to engage with your child's work. I have attached a document that I think has some really sensible advice and guidance - use it as you will. Let us not forget either that the internet provides unlimited resources to complement what is being set by us. For example, I am sure there are excellent online tutorials on YouTube that explain almost anything we do at school, so please see that as a great way to support home learning.

Thank you in supporting the social distancing measures we need to be following strictly. I know many of you have to go to work and leave your children at home. This is a completely acceptable arrangement. Although there is no specific identified age that this can or cannot happen, high school aged pupils should be able to be left alone during the day. Can I ask that you monitor your children if this is the case, because I have received complaints from the community about groups of our pupils meeting in public, when they should be at home. The message from the government is very clear - stay at home unless for an absolute necessity. Please make the importance of this absolutely clear to your children if they have been leaving the house during the day for no good reason.

Your sincerely

Tim Gibbs