

Dear Parents / Carers

Thank you for your messages of thanks to staff and the school generally; they have kept flowing in and every one of them is truly appreciated. It is a strange time, and we are all in this together.

Teachers will continue to upload work for their groups and will always have at least one week's work ahead there to be done. We know the system works but we know some of your children seem to be having trouble with it. Please refer to the instructions that were sent out late last week, and go through them together if you need to help them. We can see that most pupils are attempting the work and following instructions regarding how to 'hand it in' where required. We are also certain that some pupils are intentionally blaming technical issues on them not being able to do work, and we know that some pupils are claiming to their parents to have done all the work set, when we can see this simply is not the case.

Although it is difficult, at this time it really is down to you, as parents, to make sure the work is done. As I have said in a previous email, I am most concerned about examination groups in Years 10 and 12, as it seems they are possibly going to miss up to just over a whole term's teaching. Whenever we return to school we will have to do some quick testing to see who has done what, and who has understood what, and it is crucial no one comes back having learnt nothing as this would seriously harm their chances in their exams. Please do all you can to make sure your children are working and completing what has been set. At this point I have asked teachers to email you if you have a child in Years 10 or 12 who is not completing the work. Once we get a bigger picture we will decide whether to extend that into KS3. But for now, please get your children to show you what they have done and get them to convince you they have done their best!

Can I reiterate my previous message about the school being open for children of Key Workers please. At high school age, it is reasonable to leave your children at home for the day as you go to work, and I am grateful that only a tiny number of pupils are being sent to school. To promote social distancing and to do all we can to stop this virus spreading, thus doing all we can to help save lives and get ourselves back to normality as soon as possible, we don't want children at school unless it is absolutely unavoidable. However, we do plan to

remain open for the foreseeable future should you need to send them in. Can I ask if at any point you think you might have to send your child in, you contact me letting me know.

Lastly, can I repeat advice I gave in a previous email relating to the 'home schooling' going on in your houses. With just a little bit of searching, there are endless online resources to build on the work being set by teachers. We are not in a position to promote or recommend particular things other than what we may have done already, but please do use complementary resources that you might come across, and if you feel they are really good, please share them with your friends!

Have a nice 'weekend'.

Tim Gibbs

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