

Dear Parents / Carers

Stay alert!

I do hope you are all staying alert? Despite the lockdown being relaxed slightly, it really is crucial we do not become complacent and think we're there yet. So, please explain to your children that 'stay alert' means 'don't become complacent', and encourage them to carry on with the social distancing routines we have all become used to, only changing their habits slightly and in line with the new instructions whilst the pandemic continues to abate.

School reopening?

You will have seen the announcement by the Prime Minister on Sunday. What it did in terms of letting us know about a timescale for returning to school was interesting. At this point primary schools are making plans as best they can to reopen to some of their pupils from the 1st June, although it is fair to say none of them are really feeling particularly well informed about how they should do that. Certainly, the idea of maintaining social distancing in a primary school seems a huge challenge in my opinion. Radical reconsideration of the organisation of the logistics of each day will need to be undertaken, and frankly, I do not envy their position. My best wishes and 'good lucks' go to all our primary school colleagues within Synergy and our other feeder schools.

It was said that those secondary pupils expecting to sit exams next year will hopefully get the chance for some face to face support from their teachers before the end of the school year. We understand that to mean current years 10&12. The implication was certainly, in my opinion, that KS3 pupils will most likely not return this term, and will have to wait until September to return, at the earliest. Indeed, the indication for Years 10&12 was hardly more than an ambition should things go well in fighting the coronavirus in the forthcoming weeks and months. Throughout all of the coronavirus period I have to admit to having always assumed that the school will return to normal in September at the very latest. Fingers crossed; let's all hope it does.

Families supporting each other

Our hope remains that all pupils cope with the time away from school as well as they possibly can, including making schoolwork a part of their daily routine. We have been concerned about families who are finding this time a struggle. Sometimes life is a struggle and we hope you strive to make it work, and to make your children do their schoolwork. What has become clear is that many of our families are truly thriving in this situation, and are taking huge positives from it. If you know a family who need encouragement and support please consider doing that. If your children have friends they know are finding their schoolwork a challenge, please encourage them to try to

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influence things for the better. I do think that the more connected and together the wider community can become the better off we will all be; the satisfaction to be gained by influencing others positively is a great thing for our children to discover if they have the chance.

Reminder of expectations

We hope that your children will spend approximately 2-3 hours a day on school work if they are in KS3 and a bit more if in Year10. Year 12 students should be aiming for approximately 30 hours per week. This sounds a lot, but can be viewed as the normal school week plus 5 hours at home. We know it's a tall order to complete that, independently, for many students. But, we ask that they do their best and try to find the motivation and self belief to carry on until we can have them back at College. I have said it before, but please accept the school's sincere thanks for the way you are supporting your children in their work. We continue to be so impressed with how they have generally got on with it, and the work they are producing.

Checking emails and College applicants

Can I ask you to make sure your children check their school emails daily please? Several teachers will email whole groups as well as individuals, and the checking of emails is a key mechanism for keeping on the ball. Specifically, if your child is Year11 and has applied to the College, they must keep checking their emails. Reepham College applicants were emailed on the 27th April with details about A level independent research tasks they can *choose* to complete for their chosen subjects. These can be located by visiting the **admissions page of the College website**, and opening the document entitled '**Year 11 Independent subject research**'. These activities do **NOT** require students to send any completed work to teachers, they are simply interesting activities for students to try out. The college will email all year 11 applicants at the start of the next half term, with summer work for their chosen subjects. This will require students to complete all the tasks set for each subject, ready for their first lesson at college.

Closed during half term

Please be reminded that the school is 'closed' for holiday over half term. I do not expect staff or pupils to do any schoolwork unless they want to!

Can I finish by letting you know that all my emails, along with some other important information we have sent you, can be found on the Home page of the school website under 'Latest news'.

Yours sincerely

Tim Gibbs