

Dear KS3 Pupils

It is now an incredible nine weeks since we finished school, seven of which have been term time. When we left school I really hadn't thought it would be for this long, and I imagine neither did you. Sadly, I have to tell you that, after recent government announcements, schools are not going to reopen for KS3 pupils until September at the earliest. I am really sorry about that, because although we all look forward to time off school when it is planned holiday, this much time away from school is not what many of us would choose.

Can I say I have been so impressed with the way most of you have worked so far, and your teachers are really happy with so much that you have done. Certainly, some of you need to submit a bit more, but some of the work we have seen has been amazing, and of a quality that has blown us away. We're sorry that we are not able to mark all your work and give you the positive feedback we would normally in lessons, but this way of working takes your teachers ages and we have had to prioritise those older pupils doing exam courses, which I know you'll understand.

I just want you to know that we have absolutely not forgotten about you. You all know that one of the key criteria we use to assess you and your work is your ability to work independently, and although not what we would have planned, this whole situation is giving you an amazing opportunity to take charge of your own progress and learning. Those of you in Year 9 have made your option choices and will return in September to a new curriculum. Those of you in Year 8 are currently making similar decisions as you have the opportunity to shape your own curriculum with the year 9 subject choices available. Your parents have been emailed all information about these so I hope you know what I am talking about!

Finally, your tutor or another member of staff may well try to ring you in the next week or two, to see how you are and to see if there is any particular support you think you might benefit from, as we move through the next part of the term. Next week is half term, so we do not expect any of you to do any work. I hope you are doing your best at home and trying to be a really good family member by helping in any way you can, and by looking out for the others in your family. I hope you are finding time to do things you enjoy and find interesting, as there has never been a better time to develop a hobby! I hope you are keeping in touch with your friends, if not in person.

I hope you are looking forward to returning to school as soon as we are allowed to, and I hope when that does happen we will all be able to enjoy the time we spend here together, learning and with friends, even more than we did before. Until then, please continue to do your very best.

Mr Gibbs

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