

17th April 2020

Dear Year 9 and 10 Parents/Carers

I am writing to remind you that the summer term commences for students on **Monday 20th April**. The school continues to be 'closed' to most students, but we will be setting work and keeping in touch as best we can. We know that it can be difficult motivating your children to complete the work set and we very much appreciate your efforts and support.

We do not yet know when school will re-open. There has been some media speculation, but we believe it will be some time before schools start to re-open, and even then it will be a gradual process. We will let you know as soon as we have more information.

In the meantime, we have been working over Easter to plan for the coming term as a 'virtual school'. This letter and the attached, updated guidance set out our expectations for students and what they can expect from us. This situation is far from ideal, so we must all continue to just do our best. Thank you for your patience whilst we have adjusted to this new way of working.

Changes to the timetable from 11th May

As the school continues to be closed for most students, we have taken the decision to adjust the timetables that students follow. We have done this following feedback from parents, students and teachers as we all adjust to this new way of working. The purpose of these changes is to simplify things for students, to help with workload issues and to try and draw some benefit from this new way of working.

We are mindful that learning for students should continue, but that the situation at home is very different for each student and that their ability to engage with school is dependent on a large range of factors.

From Monday 11th May, Year 9 will stop studying the subjects that they are not continuing with to GCSE and will begin work in their new subjects. Both Year 9 and Year 10 will then be re-timetabled so that they will have a maximum of four lessons each day. This is shown in the diagram below. This will reduce the daily demand on students and significantly reduce the number of subjects Year 9 will study from 15 to 9. We will communicate individual timetables to Year 9 students in the coming weeks so that they know which of their chosen subject sits in each Option Block.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Physical Activity (daily)									
English	Option A	English	Option A	English	English	Option A	English	Option A	English
PSHCE	Maths	Maths	Maths	Science	PSHCE	Maths	Maths	Maths	Science
Science	Option B	Science	Option B	Enrichment	Science	Option B	Science	Option B	Enrichment
Option C	Option D	Option C	Option D	Catch up	Option C	Option D	Option C	Option D	Catch up



Note that Year 9 and 10 students will continue with their current timetable up until this date.

We will aim for each piece of work set to take around one hour, with an extension option for students who wish to do more. As before, the work will be set to appear on the scheduled day, following the timetables shown below.

The Enrichment block on Friday is a more open activity where students are encouraged to try any of the extension materials set during the week or to read. The Catch-Up blocks are in place to help students who may not have completed everything set during the week. We will also keep all work open until the Sunday of that week so students can complete work if they fall behind or are unwell for a short period.

The setting, monitoring and submission of work

We will continue to set work through the Show My Homework portal.

Now that we know that the school will be closed for an extended period, we will look to provide physical resources to students over the coming weeks. This will be a combination of new exercise books and subject booklets in which to complete set work.

We will also begin to ask students to submit some of the work that they have completed. Not all submitted work will be marked, but will be used by the teacher to gauge the participation in learning that is taking place. Teachers will assess and feedback, although this may be at a whole class level rather than individually, particularly for younger students. Teachers will not 'chase' students who do not submit work, but we may make contact to offer support to those who are finding this difficult. I mention again that we are very mindful that the situation at home is very different for each student and that their ability to engage with school is dependent on a large range of factors.

It is important that students can individually log into Show My Homework to access the work that is set and to submit tasks requested by their teachers. If students are not able to log into their account, please contact Mr Smart for support.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Evans

Headteacher

Further information

A YouTube video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQCP7waTRWU&feature=youtu.be&safe=true>

More information about the virus and how to prevent its spread can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

More information about how to self-isolate can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>