

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well after the Easter Break. Obviously as time passes it becomes increasingly likely that the scale of the situation we are all experiencing, will mean that situations affect us all more closely in one way or another. I would like to express my sincere thanks to you all as parents and in many cases key workers for all that you are doing in the current situation.

We heard from the government on Thursday that we are in a period of lockdown for another three weeks. We also heard yesterday that there is currently no set return date for schools. We will continue to offer school based supervision for the families of key workers throughout the course of the lockdown. Please contact us via the website if you believe your child is eligible and you would like to access support. We are all hopeful that as a country this will see us over the peak and move to a period whereby we can look to normal operations. Until this point we will however be continuing to support student and families remotely as much as possible. As we begin a new half-term I would like to note the following focus for this half-term

Work

Key Stage 3

- Most Key Stage 3 subjects will start new topics and or units of work.
- Some subject areas (e.g. Art) will continue with projects that students will continue to work on for an extended period.
- All Key Stage 3 subjects will have an online assessment at the end of this half-term. If the Academy is in full operation, the assessment will be set as homework.
- We have responded to parents requests to create a simple weekly overview. This will allow parents to use this to check completion of work.
- We will be producing some hard copies of work which can be ordered online. This is so that we do not unnecessarily send paper copies where it is not required.

Year 10

- A half-termly overview for year 10 will be online for parents from Tuesday.
- We have reviewed the Year 10 curriculum and changed the order of work that we believe will help all students' complete courses. We will be making calls to year 10 parents next week to explain this.
- There will be some critical elements of ensuring that students start coursework in target subjects.
- We will be sending paper copies of work in addition to work being placed on Teams drive.

Year 11

- We have put a letter on the website from the government about GCSE grades this summer. You will note that there is a directive for schools to not give any predicted grades to students.
- We have or will be making calls to year 11 students to ensure they are clear on what happens next and where to focus their efforts.
- We are extremely proud of how hard our year 11 students have worked. As a school we will be doing everything we can to ensure that our students receive the grades they deserve in the summer.

Year 9 Options

Following our Options Evening last term, many students have taken time to consider their futures and select subjects for study in years 10 and 11. Some students have been still considering options and as a result we still have forms outstanding.

- If you **HAVE NOT** completed the Options form it is vital that **you complete the online form ASAP**. This is on the Academy website.
- If you have already handed your form in you **DO NOT NEED** to fill in the online form.

The deadline for all completed forms is Monday the 27th April. After this point students may be allocated subjects if no sheet has been returned.

STUDENT CHECKLIST

A number of parents have asked if there is some way they can see everything we are asking students to do. We have created a weekly checklist for each year group that will be put on the website for parents. The checklist is simply record of the topic and work each subject has set. We would love to hear from you to see how you have used this to support your son/daughter. We would suggest that you could

- Put it somewhere visible.
- Agree with your son/daughter when each bit will be completed.
- Use it to e-mail the Academy when further support is needed.

Free School Meals

As per the e-mail before Easter, we will be moving to the government voucher scheme from today. If you believe you are eligible and we don't have your e-mail, please contact us.

Assemblies

We will be placing year group assemblies on our website each week. These assemblies will give students in each year group and overview of the week ahead. There will also be links to our ASPIRE programme and stories of inspirational people we are hearing about. The first assembly will be posted on Tuesday.

Parent Survey

We would really appreciate if parents had 5 minutes to complete the short survey. The survey is simply about how we can work together to support students learning during the current period. There will be a link on the website from Tuesday.

CALLING ALL THE HEROES

We would love to hear from any of our amazing ex-students who undertaking a Key Worker role at this current time.

Please use the student e-mail on the Academy website to let us know your story so we can show how proud we are of you.