

25/3/20

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends of the School.

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. For the vast majority of students we are now well into our first week of school closure. It will take time for each of our students and their families to settle into the new routines and find a rhythm to working from home. We hope this period of abnormality will be finite.

Students:

Developing strong routines will create a real sense of achievement and make you feel you have earned your relaxation time. The independent study habits you acquire over this time will serve you well as you progress through the school and beyond. Try to self-regulate and be proactive in showing your parents and carers your study plan for the day or week ahead.

- The school would recommend four or five 40 - 50 minute study sessions per day, following your normal timetable.
- Make sure you get regular exercise using the PE google classrooms or another suitable method. This will support your physical development but also your wellbeing.
- Take every opportunity you can to read. Much of the work on the google classrooms provides opportunity to extend your reading to develop breadth and depth of knowledge. Make sure you also read for pleasure. The links provided on the English google classrooms enable free access to electronic books that may open up new worlds to you.

Parents

Periodically, it is worth refreshing yourself on the 'Remote Learning Plan', which can be found on the NDHS website in the corona virus section by clicking [here](#).

I have been impressed by the quality of work that is being provided and set by the staff. As it stands (and as per the plan) for the sake of sustainable home working we are not expecting staff to collect in and feed back on the work set. That said, some of our staff may have times where they have the capacity to do so, and we have already seen staff going above and beyond the expectation of the plan.

If your child has any issues with the work set, please remind them to email their class teacher in the first instance.

For many of us, the last few weeks have been emotionally draining and any kind of normality is something to cling to. The Easter holidays begin on the 3rd April and we will not expect staff or students to be working during that time. No additional work will be added to the classrooms during the holidays, although students may wish to continue to pursue their reading. It is important we can continue to compartmentalise 'educational time' with 'rest and relaxation'. That way we are more likely to do each of those things well and we reduce the potential for apathy that may be associated with an extended period of remote learning should it arise.

For parents of year 11 and 13 students, Mr Croucher and Mr McKay wrote to students with regard to the cancellation of exams and the future awarding of grades. We are still awaiting final confirmation on what this will look like but in the meantime it is important that students complete any 'Non-Examined Assessment' and return it to the respective staff before the relevant deadline. This allows

us to cover all eventualities for awarding grades. We will contact parents and students again on this matter once the government and OFQUAL, the exams authority, provide more information.

For all letters and general information regarding the ongoing school closures, please visit the NDHS website using this [link](#).

We continue to pray and think of the vulnerable within our own community and beyond.

Best wishes,

Tom Pinnington