

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

I hope you are all staying safe in these uncertain times. My letter to you on Monday emphasised the need for the girls to be at home. Phone calls which have been made this week in an effort to track how girls are keeping suggest that many are at home and working but by no means all of them.

I realise that it is hard keeping youngsters at home but they have to try. There are some very high profile events currently in the news which are hard hitting: many young Australians flouting the law last week and laying on a beach in Sydney have now contracted the virus and it is estimated that a lot of the issues in Italy were caused by a massive crowd at a certain football match in Bergamo near Milan. Many of those spectators have contracted the virus. Mixing with people can potentially be disastrous as the Corona virus is passed on to lots of people in seconds.

So as I have already indicated, the expectation is that girls will do the work they have been set by their teachers who in turn will mark it and set more and so on. This may not be appreciated by every girl but they have to understand that if school doesn't re-open for a number of months, a lot of learning time will be lost if we don't do something.

In each year group, the following is what we are trying to achieve:

Year 13 – To prepare the girls for their next steps

Year 12 – To continue Year 12 work in preparation for Year 13

Year 11 – Given that education doesn't stop in Year 11, to prepare the girls for Key Stage 5

Year 10 – To prepare the girls for Year 11 and their GCSEs

Year 9 – To prepare the girls for starting their GCSEs

Year 7 and 8 – To properly prepare for the following year

As we approach the end of the first week of Home Learning, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the way we are currently organising this.

- Students are expected to follow their regular school timetable and complete the work for each lesson.
- Work for each lesson is being placed on the Home Learning OneDrive (a link for this can be found on the WGS website for years 7-11 and on the PGW website for years 12-13).
- Students should go into the specific subject folder, their specific year group folder and then their specific set folder.
- The work for each lesson will be clearly labelled with the set name, the date of the lesson, the lesson title and the teacher's name.
- Teachers have been asked to set clear expectations of the work that needs to be completed and also the work that should be sent back to the teacher.
- Where necessary, members of staff have been asked to set a clear completion date for the work.
- For many subjects, teachers will be setting an end of week quiz. This quiz will help consolidate student learning and check the understanding of the work students have been completing.

- As you may appreciate, it is harder for some subjects to adapt to Home Learning, so many teachers have set longer project work for their students to complete.
- It is an expectation that students stay in touch with their class teachers on a regular basis through their SFLT email addresses.
- Some subjects may organise their work slightly differently, but all work should be organised to make it easier for students to understand what is required of them.
- If the work set is unclear, or students need further support, they are encouraged to email their teachers directly.

Our expectation that members of staff will be in regular contact to support and track what work is being done.

We now know more about how public examination grades will be arrived at in secondary school. The exam boards will link teacher assessment of work to prior attainment in order to arrive at a grade. Any student contesting a particular grade, will be able to sit an exam when school re-starts as opposed to accept the grade. This guidance is for all subjects.

For parents of children who are in receipt of free school meals, we are working out the best way of getting the meal to you. The government is proposing a system of e vouchers which could well be up and running on Monday. The system is being finalised at the moment.

If you receive an email from an unreliable source concerning free school meals which asks for your bank details, please delete as this is a scam.

Schooling continues next week for vulnerable children and the children of key workers at the same times.

Easter holidays are coming up in just over a week. Staff and students deserve a break at this time although for those children accessing school this week, it will be possible to go somewhere during half term which Medway Council is organising. More details to follow.

Regarding the Paris trip which Miss Wildey is responsible for, she is speaking with the company which is organising the trip about what would happen in the event of a cancellation in terms of refunds. I will keep you informed of any new developments.

Don't forget the Body Coach 9am every day.

Finally, we have received some very positive feedback from parents this week which has been greatly appreciated. Please keep in touch and don't hesitate to contact myself or others to suggest how we might do things better.

Mr Reese