



# Tring School

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Friday 24 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## Head of School Update

Well done to all students and families who have resumed 'learning from home' routines. From my own experience this week, Monday and Tuesday were a little more challenging for us all, but as the week as progressed we are now in an improved rhythm and things are back up to speed.

As you will be aware there is an enormous amount of speculation and fake news around at the moment and some of that is centred around when schools will reopen and for who. Please be assured that as soon as we receive any official guidance on schools reopening, I will be in touch with a plan, providing as much notice as possible. Until then, we will continue doing what we are doing.

The return to 'normal' is something that I have found myself considering (desiring) a lot over recent days! What I have realised is that having experienced what we have, the old normal, won't be the new normal and therefore, we can't expect to return to normal!!!

I am sure you will all have seen the video created by Mrs Steer which was shared with students on Monday. Many students have shared with me how much they enjoyed the staff rendition of 'I want to break free' by Queen and it did achieve our ambition of lifting students' spirits, whilst having a giggle at staff being silly!

I continue to receive fantastic feedback and gratitude from parents regarding the work that the staff at Tring School are endeavouring to undertake whilst managing their own families. One email this week mentioned how it is good for the students to see that teachers are real people with real lives outside of the school gates. I understand family members regularly join lessons and this week have met Miss Taylor's dog stealing the remote control and Mrs Kay's daughter sharing her love of Frozen!!

**In response to parent and student feedback we have made the following adjustments -**  
**Feedback on student work.** - some staff will now be using a new app to provide more frequent verbal feedback to students.

**Timing of the day** - we have adjusted the timing of the day, starting Monday 27 April. Lunchtime will be from 12.35 pm - 1.20 pm followed by Periods 4 and 5 in the afternoon.

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**Year 7 and 8** - Are adjusting well to the demands of independent learning and google hangouts. Progress trackers are due in June for students and will be recorded and shared using current performance data as planned.

**Year 9** - Have 4 more weeks of Key Stage 3. Students will receive an end of Key Stage 3 grade and this will be shared as planned. Students will commence GCSE courses on 1 June and will be assigned a new timetable and new teaching groups.

**Year 10** - Students and Parents have received a letter today regarding the Individual Advice and Guidance appointments available from Connexions for students as they start to consider their next steps in education or employment.

Students were due to sit end of year assessments just as we went into lockdown. This is a valuable mechanism to identify students' level of understanding and address the gaps in knowledge. We do not want to lose this opportunity to provide vital feedback and would like to assess the students before the end of this academic year. We are trialling a remote form of assessment with Year 12 and if successful, we will roll this out to Year 10.

Year 10 advance into Year 11 on 1 June and are afforded Year 11 privileges of wearing blue shirts and ties, as well as being able to leave the school site at lunchtime. Let's hope they are given the opportunity for this before the break.

**Year 11** - Students and Parents will have received letters today advising you of how the admission process into our Sixth Form has been adjusted to take into account the changes in how students' achievements are to be recognised. Included in this letter is an outline of how students can exercise vital independent learning skills required for study in Further Education and access a range of relevant wider reading activities and tasks.

A further letter is available [here](#) for students moving onto College or Apprenticeships.

**Year 12** - Students have received a letter regarding internal remote assessment arrangements and also the launch of UCAS and Apprenticeship programmes.

**Year 13** - Have received a letter today guiding you through the next steps in accepting University offers.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Kind regards

Sally Ambose  
Head of School