

Dear Parents and Carers,

Head of School Update - Friday 17 April 2020

I hope this update finds you and your families safe and well and that you have all had time to rest, enjoying some family time and beautiful sunshine over the last two weeks. Hopefully, you and the students are looking forward to resuming a little more structure and activity as we return to Phase 3, which, unfortunately, remains under the Government's strict controls of lockdown. As we all expected, schools continue to be closed to the majority of students and learning continues to be delivered on line.

Survey Feedback - Thank you to all of you that completed our feedback survey offering praise and support and also for suggesting ways in which we could improve the experience for your children.

- **Timing of the day** - it has been suggested that it would be preferable to move the lunchtime to earlier in the day to fit in with other family members. Therefore, to provide everyone with notice, we will move lunchtime to **12.35pm - 1.20pm week commencing Monday 27 April**.
- **Feedback to students** - staff are endeavouring to provide brief feedback on students' work every two lessons. To help speed this up students will start to receive verbal feedback on the work that they are producing.
- **Highlighted individual students** - students struggling with motivation and engagement will receive 1:1 contact from their Head of House.
- **Level of challenge** - understandably different students have different levels of proficiency with their online learning. Some are completing work very easily, whereas others are finding it difficult to complete work in the set time. Having completed one two week cycle, staff are now more aware of the students ability to work independently and will endeavour to adjust their lessons accordingly.
- **Staff online presence** - our expectation is that all work is set on google classroom for each lesson as a minimum. Where possible, staff will have an online presence during the lesson and some will conduct google hangouts with classes. Please be mindful, that many of our staff are also minding their own families during this time and also that we have staff who have been ill.

We will continue to work through the responses and finely tune our provision to ensure that we meet the needs of all of our students as best we can.

Years 7-10 and 12 - Learning from home will resume at 9.05 am on Monday 20 April. Lessons will continue to be delivered through Google classroom and hangouts. I was immensely proud of the quality of delivery and feedback provided by our teachers before Easter, as well as the quality of work produced from all of our students. Lesson engagement and attendance was well above the National Average! Following the Easter break, staff are ready, excited and full of energy to pick up where they left off..... I need your help in ensuring that the students are also refocused and ready to work. The transition into home learning was seamless and therefore, I have every confidence that we will see the same levels of engagement and aptitude. I would be really grateful, if you would ensure that alarms are set and students are up, have had a drink and breakfast and are ready to learn for 9.05 am each weekday morning.

Year 11 and 13 students - All students received an additional letter from me on Friday 3 April, outlining the guidelines set out by OFQUAL, as to how student achievement will be recognised this summer. Class teachers, Subject Leaders and the Leadership Team are working closely to ensure that we submit a fair and consistent response to the exam boards. Our assessment and recording systems at Tring School are very robust. All assessed work is recorded in a central markbook and aggregated to provide a live and up to date current grade for each subject. This will be the starting point for any data shared

with the exam boards. Please can I politely remind you that schools have been told categorically by the Department for Education not to discuss individual grades or assessments with any student. Therefore, please continue to refrain from contacting staff directly.

Exam Results Days - will feel different this year. The dates have been shared and will remain the same as previously published dates, with A Level results being released on Thursday 13 August and GCSE results being released on Thursday 20 August.

Sixth Form Admission Arrangements - I will be writing to Year 11 separately next week regarding this.

Our own Tring School Coronavirus Heroes - During the first weekend of the Easter break I was contacted by Miss Jones, Head of D&T, to request that I would allow her and Miss Corney to enter the school site to produce vital PPE, whilst observing social distancing requirements. Of course, I said yes! It became apparent very quickly the huge demand for this equipment from our local community of key workers. We opened up a 'Crowd Fund' page with the ambition of raising £500 to purchase materials and to provide an opportunity for friends and families to make a contribution to an exceptionally good cause. Well..... the response and generosity of our community has been absolutely phenomenal and we received just short of £3000 in one week! Material has been purchased and Miss Jones and Miss Corney have worked tirelessly to produce over 1000 face shields which have been generously distributed to 42 different organisations, including Tring based doctors surgeries and St Joseph's Care home. Whilst the demand continues, they are committed to continuing their production line. Please join me in offering a huge amount of gratitude and appreciation to the Tring School Heroes serving our local heroes!

New Build Update - Amidst the frustration and sadness of our current unprecedented time, there is a small glimmer of sunshine. The government has allowed construction work to continue and with that brings the long awaited news that groundwork and conversion work has started this week for our new school. I am delighted to share that I have seen diggers on the school site this week!

Please can I ask that you share with me if any student has been directly affected by the loss of a relative or friend as a result of Covid 19. We can offer additional support with grief and loss as required, but also we will endeavour to sensitively prepare our welcoming messages and support to students when we do return properly to school.

Thank you all for your continued support and kind messages.

Kind regards

Sally Ambrose
Head of School