

April 24th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Learning

Despite a lot of press speculation and questions from journalists, there is no certainty at all yet as to when schools might reopen and just what that might look like when they do. Until then we have to continue to reassure our young people that all will be well again at some point and continue to educate them in the best way we can.

Teachers will continue to set work on Show My Homework and new work packs have been prepared and either collected or delivered for those students who do not have computer access at home. If you still require a pack please do contact school. The work set by staff can only be part of the education that students currently receive. I am sure that a lot of you are enhancing learning with other activities, encouraging students to read, exercise, take up hobbies and developing new skills. The BBC are also putting out a lot of educational programmes which can be accessed either via BBC Bitesize on a computer or through the red button on the TV or BBC iPlayer. Each week the BBC will publish a timetable of programmes which are specific to each year group and this can be accessed at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bitesize-daily-schedules-teach/zdtwjhv>

Safeguarding

With children spending more time on line in these strange days, the importance of online safety and appropriate use of devices cannot be stressed enough. There is a list of resources for parents in the parent section of our website but the National Online Safety organisation also recommends the 4Ds

Digital Detox	Clear time during the day where devices are not to be used
Digital Free Zones	Areas of the house where devices are not to be used e.g. bedrooms
Digital role models	Adults modelling appropriate use of devices
Digital sunset	A good hour before bedtime without using devices to aid sleep

The school's obligation to safeguard students remains during this closure period. Please do inform us either by phone (01772 682008), email (contact@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk) or the safeguarding tab at the top of the web page if you have any concerns about a child in school.

Free School Meals

After some initial challenges with the Free School Meal vouchers, the system does now seem to be improving and families should, within the next couple of days, have received vouchers which cover the

weeks of April 6th, 13th and 20th at £15 per child per week. Today I have ordered the next set of vouchers but to make life easier for yourselves and school I have ordered them for two weeks. This means that for those families eligible you will receive one code or one voucher to cover the weeks of April 27th and May 4th. If you have one child the voucher will be for £30, two children £60 etc. Moving forward we will keep this arrangement and order vouchers every two weeks for as long as the current situation lasts.

I would want to stress that if any family is currently struggling financially and needs help with feeding children then please do get in touch and we will do what we can to help.

Staffing

For information, as things stand, we are fully staffed for the next academic year and so do not currently have to worry about the recruitment of new teachers during lockdown. This week we welcomed Mrs Rachel Carter on to the staff as our new Marketing and Communications Officer.

Later this term Miss Coulthard will be going on maternity leave. She is currently Head of Year 10 and as she will be off for a significant proportion of their Year 11, Mrs Beesley will take over responsibility for the year group when Miss Coulthard goes off and see them through to the end of Year 11.

Ramadan

We have a small number of Muslim students who today begin the holy month of Ramadan. As with the Christian community at Easter, the Muslim community is having to radically change many of its normal practices at this time of pandemic but we give our best wishes to these students at this important time.

Best wishes

Andrew Waller
Headteacher