

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your children enjoyed the excellent weather over the half term holiday and managed to schedule in some time to relax.

It has been a really successful first week back for our students and we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some key information about our distance learning offer, the Be Safe messages we are sharing with our students via Microsoft Teams and their Year group team and links to up to date government advice regarding Covid-19.

Information in this letter includes:

1. Distance Learning Update.
2. Be Safe messages shared with students.
3. Up to date government advice regarding the Covid-19.

1. Distance Learning Update

Firstly, we wanted to say to our students well done on another fantastic week of distance learning. More of them are on Teams than ever before, spending longer on each of their subjects. We are so proud of them all. This week we moved to class teams in all core subjects and we hope they are enjoying their new class teams in English and Science and the direct contact with their teacher. Something our students should look out for is for the personalised feedback they will received for upcoming assignments in the weeks ahead.

In order to make the most of these assessment opportunities we are sharing with students the following messages:

- Remember to not attempt your assignments until you have completed your lessons for the week.
- Always press 'turn in' when you've completed your assignments so they are submitted to your teacher.

We released some teacher recorded lessons this week in some subject areas which we hope were useful. Students should look out for more next week.

We also want to remind students that it is really important to log in to their Year team every morning and afternoon for really important messages from their form tutors, Heads of Year and other staff. There are lots of nice video messages on there too.

2. Be safe messages shared with students

Secondly, we wanted to highlight to parents the following Be Safe messages about being online that students will be given over the course of the coming weeks. We would really appreciate your support with reinforcing these messages.

Showing kindness online can mean so much to someone else. It is a choice that we can make that helps others, puts people's needs before our own and which can generate feelings of empathy and compassion. Small gestures can have a large impact and often one act of kindness can lead to more.

The following suggestions are taken from the National Online Safety organisation and can benefit mental health, support wellbeing and encourage a more positive approach to engaging online.

1. Be positive – post things that make you happy and brighten other people's day.
2. Offer to help – Something that you find easy might be hard for others. Offer your help with school work or technical advice for a relative who's never used platforms that you're familiar with.
3. Show appreciation to others – this costs nothing and means so much to people.
4. Share funny videos and images with friends and family – make someone who might be having a bad day smile.
5. Like, love and celebrate – if someone post something that you like celebrate it.
6. Video call your friends and family – it's easy to get caught up in your day. A simple video call will show family members and friends that you've got time for them and it can mean the world to them.
7. Tell someone you're thinking of them – we can't always tell how people are feeling online so dropping them a message could make their day.
8. Share positive or helpful posts – if something inspires you it may inspire others, share it.
9. Host an online quiz – if someone is feeling lonely invite them to your quiz, it could really cheer them up.
10. Think before you comment – thinking before you post means that your response is less emotional and less likely to hurt or offend.
11. Be compassionate and understanding – being empathetic is so important at all times but now more than ever we need to look after each other.
12. Connect friends and family with similar interests – this is a great way to help people make new friends but remember to always ask permission first.
13. Recommend something that you enjoy doing to others – letting others know could mean that they also have a good time, sharing this is a wonderful act of generosity.
14. Praise people for their achievements – it is always kind to recognise others through praise and we all know how nice it feels to be recognised.

3. Up to date government advice regarding the Covid-19

As you are aware, as a school, we continue to be guided by advice from the Department of Education, Manchester City Council and our Trust board. We will continue to communicate any changes we make via our weekly letters. It is also important that we continue to be aware of the most recent Government advice with regards to protecting ourselves and others against catching the coronavirus, which can be found using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Thank you for all your support. Stay safe and well.

Kind regards,
Chorlton High School