

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, and most importantly, we hope this letter finds you and your family well and safe in this challenging time of change and uncertainty.

Students have now experienced their first week of distance learning and we sent out a survey to collect your thoughts on this, earlier this week. As part of this survey we explained that distance learning will change after the Easter holidays and this will be outlined to you in a letter closer to the time. For now, we want to clarify and share with you messages for next week, as follows;

- 1. Distance learning – work set, where and a request for information regarding equipment**
- 2. New Wellbeing Advice**
- 3. Ideas of things to do during this time of isolation**
- 4. Free school meals update**
- 5. The coming week's passion projects**
- 6. Links you might find useful**
- 7. Other key reminders from last week's letter**
- 8. Coming soon**

1. Distance learning – work set, where and a request for information regarding equipment

Firstly, we are aware that the Doodle site experienced significant difficulty earlier this week and want to reassure you that the site is working hard to deal with these issues. Distance learning work will continue to be set via our Doodle platform next week. We want to clarify that the work set on Doodle is for the whole week. Students should use their timetable to support them in working through this, different students will work at different paces and we are aware that the amount of work set can be overwhelming for some students. We also want you to know that whilst a significant amount of work is being set, we also really want our students / families to do what is right for them in terms of the amount and time spent completing this work. Health and wellbeing must come first.

If your child does not have access to the equipment needed to complete the distance learning and requires any paper copies of work, please can you let the school know by emailing: admin@chorltonhigh.org.uk or phone the school on 0161 882 1150.

2. New Wellbeing Advice

It is important that young people are able to stay active and that they are taking care of their mental health. We will regularly assign tasks and advice to Doodle to support this. There is also an area on the school website that highlight activities. We would like you to consider the attachment on this page about Relaxation techniques: <https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/student-life/well-being-and-mental-health>

3. Ideas of things to do during this time of isolation

As a school, we have been using our social networking sites to share with parents and students the many wonderful ideas and opportunities that have been made available to us at this difficult time. It includes a range of free resources and ideas for things students can be doing during their time of isolation. We strongly advise you sign up to the school Twitter page **@chorltonhigh** and students follow our Instagram account: **chorlton_high_school**.

4. Free school meals update

Many of our students are entitled to a free school meal. Our catering teams can produce a weekly 'food parcel' for children's lunches. This will mean that instead of coming to school on a daily basis to pick up their lunch, parcels can be collected from **Chorlton High School reception at between 12pm and 1pm each Friday.**

5. The coming week's passion projects:

Year 7 and 8

Well done to those students who have completed last week's passion projects, working towards your pastoral curriculum badges. A reminder that Year 7 and Year 8 can work towards their pastoral badges by developing a communications piece; either a newspaper, magazine, written social page or journal, based on "A year in the life of a young person in 2020".

This week's project is called "When I Was Young" and we encourage students to research what life was like for a young person in 1920 in comparison to a young person's life today in 2020. Social distancing and isolation doesn't mean you cannot talk to others. Think about FaceTime, emails and texts to keep socialising with family and friends.

Year 9

Well done to all those who have completed last week's passion projects, and therefore working towards the VESPA pastoral curriculum. A reminder that Year 9 can work towards their pastoral badges by developing a communications piece, either a newspaper, magazine, written social page or journal, based on "If I could change the world/country/city, I would...".

This week is around "What would you want to achieve in a year from now" and we encourage students to think about their community, Manchester, school life and the UK as a whole. What can they learn from the next few weeks?

Year 10

Well done to the Year 10 students who have completed last week's passion project, and worked towards the Organisation and Planning strand of the SSAT pastoral curriculum. A reminder that Year 10 can work towards their pastoral badges by completing the "My World and I" project.

This week is all around the "Understanding my Community" strand and we encourage our students to research the effect of recent news on our climate, both locally, nationally and internationally. Social distancing and isolation doesn't mean you cannot talk to others. Think about FaceTime, emails and texts to keep socialising with family and friends, and find out the impact on their lives/community to help your project.

6. Links you might find useful:

Learning sites students are using:

- Doodle: <https://www.doodlelearn.co.uk/app/login>
- GCSE pod: <https://www.gcsepod.com/>
- Seneca: <https://www.senecalearning.com/>

- BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Maths Watch: <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>
- Borrow Box: https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/200062/libraries/6657/download_books_magazines_and_courses/1

Motivation: <http://www.educatemagazine.com/five-ways-motivate-teen/>

To support families facing hardship

Because schools have closed and some families are facing additional financial challenges due to the COVID-19 virus, MCC are providing a financial grant to parents and carers of the following groups of children and young people.

To qualify the family must be:-

- a Manchester resident or supported by our Homelessness Service; and
- whose family has been hardest hit by the recent issues and may be waiting for benefits to be assessed or have a gap in their income due to being laid off etc.

To make an application, families need to submit a request via the Council's Welfare Provision Scheme at: MCC Apply for cash grant if you are in financial crisis

7. Other key reminders from last week's letter:

Useful email accounts you may need:

- Any queries regarding doddle help, please email: DoddleHelp@prospere.org.uk
- Any general queries, please email: admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk

To access keyworker provision, please email admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk or call the school on 0161 882 1150.

Digital safety messages:

Distance learning will require more screen and internet time for students. It is very important that students are safe and responsible online. Please see the school website for any digital safety advice using the following link: <https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/parents/digital-safety>

8. Coming soon:

- Chorlton High will be launching a YouTube channel – keep an eye on our social media accounts for this launch
- Easter projects will be sent next week. More information will follow

Once again, we thank you for your continued support. We will be in contact next week with the findings from the parent survey about distance learning and will hopefully be able to share with you a basic plan for distance learning and how that will look after the Easter holidays.

Stay safe and well.

Kind regards,

Chorlton High School

