

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, and most importantly, we hope this letter finds you and your family well and safe, it continues to be a time of change and challenge for all of us.

As yet, there are no further updates from Ofqual or the DfE on how grades are going to be awarded so as we have said throughout, we need to make sure our students remain prepared for whatever is decided. It is hard and we appreciate the fact that some students may be questioning the point of continuing to study. It is easy to give up at this point but that is not an option. We need our students to draw upon their Qualities of Success, be resilient, find motivation and take responsibility for becoming better independent learners.

Weekly, teachers continue to support student learning and set tasks that students are expected to complete. We are advising that as a minimum, students should continue to study the subjects they would be completing at school, as per their timetable. As well as regular, routine reading. It is important that you remain on top of the knowledge in your subjects as we await to hear how your subject grades will be awarded. One possible scenario is that students may get a chance to sit an exam if you are unhappy with the grade they are awarded. Remember, to help structure the time and reduce stress we have suggested that students simply follow their timetable and cover as much as they can in each slot.

Moving forward, we are currently developing new materials that will help bridge the current gap between school and post-16 for our Year 11s, hopefully in a more creative, engaging and meaningful way. These resources should help engage students with academic studies as well as maintain a focus on their personal development journey. These materials will be available after Easter and will be set as weekly lessons, tasks, activities and even motivational assemblies.

We will update you again in coming weeks, in the meantime do check the school website for links to resources, well-being activities and useful tips.

We also wanted to provide you with some key information, which can be found below:

- 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. Links you might find useful**
- 6. Other key reminders from last week's letter**
- 7. 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 phoning the school on 0161 882 1150.

2. 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 the parcels can be collected from **Chorlton High School reception at between 12pm and 1pm each Friday.**

5. 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](#)

6. Other key reminders:

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>

7. Coming soon:

- Chorlton High will be launching a YouTube channel – keep an eye on our social media accounts for this launch.

Kind regards,

Mrs Banger
Deputy Headteacher