

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and that this letter finds you all safe and well.

This feels like a very different start to a term but I wanted to welcome everyone back to the Summer term as we all continue work together and navigate through the current situation. We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the chance to say thank you for everything you are doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

Distance Learning

I want to start by thanking all our parents and students for their patience and understanding in their wait for the Bridge to Post 16 resources. We have worked hard to make sure that the Distance Learning materials that have been pulled together help fill a fundamental gap in the transition process of our Year 11s. We have tried to ensure that English and Maths remain a requirement for all as well as meet their desire for new learning which many feel they are ready for. All the 'Bridge to Post 16' Transition resources can be found here: <https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/chs-distance-learning>. Additional posts and updates can be found on Twitter and Instagram.

We want to also flag up two sites that have been launched this week that students can explore to support their learning.

- **BBC Bitesize** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> – An excellent resource, which also features our own Ms. Armit delivering some Science lessons.
- **Oak National Academy** - <https://www.thenational.academy/> - providing additional online lessons.

As far as student GCSE grades are concerned, the government consultation period closes on 29th April and it is hoped that schools will be given further guidance soon after, until then we continue to wait.

Free School meals

Now that the Government's FSM voucher system is in operation we are hoping to move to this system, to provide parents with vouchers so they can purchase food directly from supermarkets for their child's FSM lunch. We will provide further details about this system next week.

Whilst we are waiting for this system to be set up for us we will continue to keep our weekly food parcel system in place which involves families confirming each week that they would like this to be provided.

This is a difficult time financially for many families and we wanted to signpost other support available. If you require a referral for the food bank, please can you contact school by phone or email and ask for the Pastoral Team to get back to you, as food banks need a referral from a professional. You can also text your local hub at The Bread and Butter Thing <https://breadandbutterthing.org/> and get a bag of shopping worth around £15-£25 for £7. We will try and update this information on the school website as frequently as we receive it, so please do check the Distance Learning tab for any further updates regarding support available.

Support for students who do not have access to IT

We are very aware that not all families have access to reliable technology to support home learning. We have been providing learning packs for those families we have been aware of. However, if this applies to your situation please get in touch via email admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk, phone 0161 882 1150 or mention it when the Pastoral Team contact you.

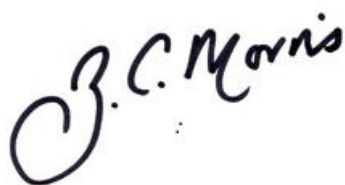
Some families have contacted us this week following the Government announcement that they would be supplying laptops for families who are facing hardship. We are still awaiting further details about this scheme, but believe that there will be only a small number of students eligible for this. It is likely that they will be children with a social worker, care givers and students in receipt of free school meals in Year 10, ahead of sitting their GCSEs next year. We will be in touch with those families as soon as we have further information about it.

It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. We want to know that we are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together.

Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn, their wellbeing or you need any other support from the school, please do let us know. You can contact the school admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk, phone 0161 882 1150 or mention it when the Pastoral Team contact you. We want to be able help.

We miss having the Year 11 students in school and rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep our students learning and the school connected.

Yours sincerely



Ms. Z. Morris



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