

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**

We particularly wanted to thank all parents and students for their patience and understanding in our recent move to MS Teams. We are aware that moving to a new online platform with such a large number of students and staff is challenging. To provide some context, we have trained staff remotely on the new platform and organised students into online teams, which was a significant task prior to Easter. We wanted students to feel supported when logging on. So from our recent feedback, we learnt that this was often achieved best with paper instructions which can guide students through each step. However, despite our Office Manager bundling up all 1500 envelopes early last week and taking them to the postal depot herself, they still did not all arrive on time! So many, many apologies again.

We hope that now all parents do have the information that is required. We also want to remind you that our Computing teachers can support families with any issues that they may be having. If this is the case, please email [MicrosoftHelp@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:MicrosoftHelp@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk). We hope your child is benefitting from some of the interactive features including our messages and explanation, welcome videos in 'Posts', some further teacher narration and modelling in the PowerPoint lessons. We are keen to move this new distance learning method forward and further develop the amount of subjects and how lessons can be delivered in MS Teams. From next week, Year 9 and 10 MFL and Humanities lessons will also be on MS Teams – French, Spanish, History, Geography and RE. We will be gradually adding other subjects and will keep you informed of this.

As well as this move to MS Teams, we wanted to remind parents that we will keep developing the website to signpost resources and in particular tasks to support students in being creative and with their wellbeing during this time of school closure. This can be found here:

<https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/chs-distance-learning/happy/wellbeing>. This is in addition to

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.

### **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 lunches. We will provide further details about this early 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 has 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](mailto: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.

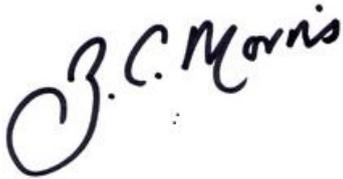
It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. We want to know that we are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together.

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](mailto:admin@chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk), phone 0161 882 1150 or mention it when the Pastoral Team



We miss having the students in school, and while we can't say yet when we'll be able to open the school fully, rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep our students learning and the school connected.

Yours sincerely



Ms. Z. Morris  
Headteacher



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