



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
info@garstangcommunityacademy.com

GCA Parent/Carer Briefing

Monday 4/5/20

(May the fourth be with you)

Good morning

(The winding path to peace is always a worthy one, regardless of how many turns it takes)

Return and Recover:

There is still (largely uninformed and unhelpful) speculation in the news about when, and how, schools will re-open.

For now, we are still assuming that we will be in this position beyond half term, and that even when schools do go back, it is likely that this will be phased in some way. More information will be sent out as and when we have it.

However, I do want to reassure you that a lot of thought, and planning, is being put into, not only the immediate 'Return' phase, but, rather, to the 'Recover' phase – what's going to happen over the coming weeks, months, and even, years to help to support GCA children psychologically and educationally so that their futures are not defined by recent events.

(A failure in planning is a plan for failure)

Key Worker/Vulnerable/EHCP Children - School Provision:

There are no further arrangements regarding our in-school provision: If you would like your child to attend the provision, please email SLT@garstangcommunityacademy.com before 5.00pm the day before. The more notice you can give us, the better. If your child needs to catch a bus to access the provision, we will need 48 hours to organise this.

Children's work, and future implications:

New timetables for year 7 and 8 pupils were communicated to you on Friday. These can also be found on the school website via the 'Important Updates' link. We hope that these new timetables will allow all students in year 7 and 8 to have more clarity when viewing their work for the day on Show my Homework. Please ensure, that if you have a child in year 7 or 8 that they are following the new timetables.

As I mentioned in last week's briefing, the number of GCA children positively engaging with their online work is absolutely fantastic and *significantly* above the national figure and this will stand children in good stead going forwards. The more children engage, the less catching up with the rest of



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the country's children there will be – in fact our children will be well ahead of the curve and in a comparatively really good educational position.

(The best confidence builder is experience.)

I have sent home a video message to children (younglings and padawans) today – please encourage them to watch it – it's only about 5 minutes long and, among other things, reinforces the message above, and that they should try not to worry. Progress Leaders and Form Tutors are continuing to make phone calls to parents. to check that children are ok and, in some cases, to give engagement support.

We understand, although frustratingly, not directly from the company, that the SMH App will change this week to a Satchel One App.



We're not expecting there to be any significant operational changes – hopefully!

(Overconfidence is the most dangerous form of carelessness.)

Year 11:

We are actively working on the Centre Assessed Estimated Grades so that they are ready to send as soon as we are asked for them – we are in a very strong position with recent years' great results, and staff have, and continue to, put a lot of effort into getting these grades as fair and as precise as we can do. Please be assured, but please do not contact any member of staff to discuss your child's 'forecast' GCSE grade - they cannot, and will not, discuss individual grades under any circumstances.

There are some specific messages to year 11 on my video message to children today.



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2020-21 Curriculum

More to follow in the near future.

A Bit of Fun

Mrs Crowe's projects including 'GCA Lockdown Song' and album have been joined by various other projects, including Mrs Rawlinson's bake a Rainbow Cake and Miss Procter's Great GCA Bake Off. In fact, please just send us any pictures of you working on your 'Lockdown Projects' whatever they are – please send them to wellbeing@garstangcommunityacademy.com

(A single chance is a galaxy of hope)

Safeguarding:

We will send information over the next few days about some National online safety support for parents/carers.

If there are ANY safeguarding issues, please contact us via the 'Keep me Safe' button on the school website, or report them to the usual authorities.

Please remember that this Friday is a Bank Holiday to commemorate VE Day – there will be no school work set, and no 'live support' on Friday.

Warm wishes, and stay safe *(care with your lightsabres you must take)*

Jedi Master Ashcroft

(To seek something is to believe in its possibility)