



## GCA Parent/Carer Briefing

Monday 11/5/20

Good morning,

### Return and Recover:

The Prime Minister's announcement has added no clarity to the plan for children to return to school – the only reference made was: 'Our ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get some time with their teachers before the summer holidays.'

Therefore, we are still assuming that we will be in this position well beyond half term.

More information will be sent out as and when we have it.

In the meantime, we continue to plan both the 'Return' phase – which is the who and how and when, and the 'Recover' phase – what's going to happen over the weeks, months, and even, years following return, to help to support GCA children psychologically and educationally so that their futures are not defined by recent events.

### Key Worker/Vulnerable/EHCP Children - School Provision:

No change to arrangements: 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:

**Great work** coming in – see Mrs Rawcliffe's Newsletter for details. The quality of the work, and the level of engagement is fabulous – well done everyone.

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.

I understand that '**ActiveLearn**' (used by Maths and MFL) site is updating on Saturday – **please make sure that your children know their Usernames and Passwords** as they will need them to log back on and they probably will not have been saved.

We've had a number of questions about children who have finished their **exercise books** – unfortunately, I don't think it is sensible to try to provide a system of replacing exercise books, and it is absolutely fine for children to work on paper or their own notebooks. If you are struggling financially to provide something to write on, please just let us know by emailing your progress leader, and we will try to help.

### Year 7:

We announced, slightly prematurely, last week, that Mr Kidd will take over as Progress Leader for Year 7 with immediate effect. However, this process will take a couple of weeks to transition properly so that Ms Rainbow and Mr Kidd can make sure that the year group is effectively 'handed over'.



Therefore, please continue to communicate with Ms Rainbow up to half term, and Mr Kidd will take over fully on 1/6/20. My apologies for the slight confusion.

#### A Bit of Fun

Please continue to send in your entries and photos for things like the GCA single and album, as well as the Great GCA Bake-off and other Well-being projects.

#### Safeguarding:

A letter should have arrived via email to the first contact on our system (please let us know if you want us to send it to someone else), from '**National Online Safety for Parents and Carers**' with information on how to access resources designed to keep families safe online.

Other useful information can be found on <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/>

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 we break up for half term on Friday 22/5/20.**

Warm wishes, and stay safe

Mr Ashcroft