

Dear Families,

I hope that you are keeping safe and well and managing to adapt to this new way of working for us all. Thank you for the continuing messages of support that we have received from many of our parents and carers – they really are much appreciated at this extremely difficult time, and remind us of what a fantastic community we serve.

Social Distancing

Further to the government announcement on Monday evening, please can I encourage you to remind your child, that although it may be very difficult, they should be staying at home and not mixing with friends. We have seen groups of our learners out together in recent days and clearly this is a concern for their own and others safety.

Free School Meals

As already shared with families, any child who is eligible for a free school meal is able to collect one from the main school office between 12pm and 12.30pm each day. The government have announced that they will be putting a national voucher scheme in place, and we will update you with regard to this as soon as further information becomes available, but in the meantime school will continue to provide them as outlined above.

Setting of Work for All Learners

Staff are working really hard to ensure that appropriate work is being set for all learners on a regular basis. Please can you remind your child that they should be logging on to their email and INSIGHT accounts on a daily basis to access the work that has been set. If they have any specific queries or questions regarding the work they can email their subject teachers or heads of department. We encourage you to ensure that your child remains in a good routine in continuing with their studies during normal school hours to support their longer term education and learning.

Year 11

We were extremely sad to have to say goodbye to our Class of 2020 in such unexpected circumstances last Friday. However, we did manage to send them off with an emotional reflection of the past five years they have spent with us, and it was heartening to see so many smiles through the tears. We will continue to work with them and you over the coming months until they have successfully transitioned to the next stage of their journey.

Following the government announcement that the GCSE exams scheduled for May and June will now not take place, we have received some information highlighting that grades will be awarded using a range of information. The details of this are not yet available, and as soon as we have an understanding of what these are we will update you accordingly. We do know that there will be an opportunity for learners to still sit exams in September if they wish and if they are not satisfied with the

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grades they are eventually awarded, as well as some resit opportunities next summer. With all of this in mind and in order to ensure they are well prepared for their future studies, we would encourage our Year 11 learners to be completing the work provided for them and continuing with their studies as much as possible.

Careers Advice for Years 10 and 11

We have been given assurance from Positive Steps, the school careers service, that they will be continuing to provide ongoing support and guidance during this period. They have informed us that they will be publishing information shortly that we can share with learners and families regarding this, but if you have any urgent queries in the meantime then please contact Tameside Positive Steps on 0800 484 0407 or 0161 621 9292 in the first instance.

I will continue to provide you with updates regarding the current provision for all of our learners, but in the meantime, please do get in touch if there is anything we can support with.

Andrea Jones

Headteacher