



# ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Graham Scott

20 May 2020

Dear students and parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are all well and are coping as well as can be expected with the current situation. Hopefully, we can see light at the end of the tunnel!

As you will be aware, in order to reduce the amount of school messages going out to you from different staff, we have tried to pass on key SVF information through social media, the school website and via Mr Barnes' updates, on behalf of the federation. However, at this point, I thought I would write to you to convey my thoughts, as we approach the end of the half-term.

I will start by saying many thanks to our fantastic students, who, on the whole, have worked incredibly hard at home under very challenging circumstances. You have no doubt tried the best you can to complete the tasks set by teaching staff and I thank you for that. It has certainly not been easy for you and some of you will have adapted better than others.

The role and contributions of parents/carers should not be underestimated at this time either. I am sure that many of you have quite enjoyed doing some teaching and have realised what a rewarding, but difficult career it can be. Whatever your experiences, I don't think any of us will ever forget "Home Schooling 2020". Thank you for your effort's folks, it is much appreciated.

I would also like to thank both the teaching and support staff of the school, who have worked tirelessly to keep things running smoothly during lockdown. They have done a great job. A lot of which, for once, has been unseen, but vital nonetheless.

Since the Prime Minister's announcement on 10 May, we are currently planning for the potential safe return to school for years 10 and 12 in some form and at some point, before the summer holidays. We have not ruled out having some face to face contact with year 9 students too, but because years 10 and 12 will sit external examinations in 2021, they have been identified as the priority. Once we have finalised these plans and we can ensure the safety of all students and staff, we will inform you of our intentions. Please bear with us in the meantime.

**Important note:** As of Monday 1 June, year 9 students will only be asked to complete work in English, Maths, Science, SMSC and the subjects that they have chosen to follow as an option in years 10 and 11. So for example, if you have not opted to take French as a GCSE, then although work will still be set by subject staff, you do not have to complete it. We are in the process of setting up Google Classrooms for option subjects, so that "Transition work" can be set. So, for example, if you have chosen to study Geography next year, then a "Geography Google Classroom" will hopefully be set up so staff can place introductory tasks in there for you to complete.

For year 11 and year 13 students, it has been a strange and no doubt surreal experience for you all. One minute you were preparing for the final push for the summer examinations and the next, they were all cancelled. I can't begin to imagine the emotions you were/are all feeling! Although, I am unable to make any firm

commitments at this stage about rescheduled leavers assemblies and Proms etc, I will say that we will do all that we can to ensure that at some point we are able to say a “proper goodbye” to each other.

**Important note: New work will not be set for year 11 and 13 students as of Monday 1 June. However, transition work should still be completed by year 11 students returning to our Sixth Form and year 13 teachers will be ensuring that any missing work is submitted.**

Well, I think that is just about it for now. We will keep you informed of any developments in due course and hopefully I will see many of you face to face very soon.

I hope you all have a nice May half-term holiday, if that is possible. You will be pleased to know that I have asked staff not to set any work over the course of next week.

Sending my very best wishes to you all - stay safe and take care.

Graham Scott  
Head of school