

23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Last week was a very difficult time for many of your sons or daughters with the school year being so abruptly halted and is an anxious time for both them and you. After the announcement on Wednesday evening that schools would close for all but vulnerable and key worker children by Friday and that GCSE exams would be cancelled presented the most challenging 36 hours of my career so far.

I feel blessed to work in a school where all the staff rallied round to ensure everything that was needed to be put in place was ready by the time we closed on Friday. That we were able to finish the week in the best way possible for our Y11 pupils and that we were ready to open our doors to pupils who need to be with us for the foreseeable future today and organise work for all pupils to do from today is testimony to the sheer dedication and hard work of the staff in our school.

Now we are starting a period of time when the majority of pupils will be working from home, I would ask that you reinforce the message that we have given to our pupils, ***that they must treat this time as a time of study and work.*** They will be allocated work by their class teachers as if there were in school, following their timetable as if they were in school. We have added a '**Working From Home**' link to our website which contains instructions and '**How to**' videos to ensure your child can follow as close to a normal timetable as possible from home. Already this morning the technicians have told me we have exceptionally high demand on the servers, which is brilliant. It is also worth pointing out that we can tell who is logging on to do their work and who isn't!

Thank you for your ongoing help and support in these uncertain times, it is always greatly appreciated.

We are here to try to help and support you in whatever way we can, so please get in touch if we can do so. I hope and pray that you are all safe and well during the ongoing crisis and that we will all get through this with a sense of positivity and generosity of spirit.

Yours faithfully



M J DUMICAN
Headteacher