

11th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Easter to you all. Tuesday 14th April is Day 1 of the Virtual School Summer Term - Structured learning now begins for all students! *NB: The school site is closed on Bank Holiday Monday.*

Education

We have suggested that students follow a routine as if they are in school, getting up, eating breakfast and being ready to work for 9am.

All the work set is on the website in the following area:

<https://www.sdcc.net/information/COVID19-information/student-work>

- You will find a **daily timetable** for each year group.
- Click on the link in each session - this will take you to the lesson that has been set.
- All the lessons are in the same format and style that students would have if they were in school -

For example; a low stakes quiz, teacher instruction, followed by deliberate practice and how this is shared back with teachers, finally a review.

- In addition, there are links to some **exercises** that can be done indoors as well as some other **extra curricular** style activities to support students in staying healthy both in body and mind.
- On **Friday** students will complete an **online quiz** on the week's work, as well as our '**Fun Friday**' challenge set by Mr Chapman each week.
- Staff will be able to monitor students completion of the work and the end of week quiz. This will be collated and form part of the tutor conversation each week.

Please see the attachment at the end this letter for more details for each year group.

Education support

If your child is struggling with the work, please encourage them to **email their teachers** or the appropriate staff members as required, again these can be found on the website, or **phone reception** who will be able to forward your questions, or discuss this with **the tutor** during the weekly call.

In addition, we will be setting up an **afternoon helpdesk surgery** for students to email in, and be 'taught' by the teacher (we will trial this in English, History and Geography) - see the website for further details when it is launched.

If students do not have access to the internet or electronic devices they should contact their Learning Manager who can organise an alternative solution, where students can access a **paper based work pack** each week.

Year 11 & 13 Examinations

All Year 11 and 13 students will have received information from Ofqual regarding the examination results - both the information sheet below and a youtube clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtjYIQ&feature=youtu.be>

Please read through these together, and if you have any further questions please direct them to Mr Gill or Mr Tinkler. Under no circumstances are we allowed to tell parents or students the grades that are submitted to the exam board, so please refrain from asking staff at the college.

If students need support with next steps or careers (apprenticeships) email the sixth form team (mtinkler@sdcc.net) and/or the careers team (strezona@sdcc.net).

Welfare - Keeping everyone safe

Contact from school

Although we are not in school seeing children daily, we still have a duty of care for our young people, and indeed our staff and tutors do want to ensure that they are available to our students as much as they can remotely. Each week you will receive a phone call from the tutor or keyworker from school. This call is important for keeping your child in contact with school. We will check on:

Welfare - is your child keeping physically and mentally well - signposting support if needed.

Education - is your child completing the work? Are there any issues or areas they need support with?

Free school meals - what scheme is being used? Grab bags, in-school hot lunch for vulnerable students and children of keyworkers, voucher scheme.

It is useful to agree on a time with the tutor that is convenient to you both. If we cannot get any contact, we will email both you and your child. If we still have no contact despite several attempts we may need to raise 'a concern'. So please do ensure you and your child keep in touch.

Student support

If your child is struggling emotionally and needs support, please visit our website:

<https://www.sdcc.net/information/COVID19-information/student-welfare>

There are resources, as well as access to **Kooth (online counselling)**. We will also be offering a helpdesk for concerns, advice or worries where students can talk with our trained pastoral staff using the email talk2us@sdcc.net (this will go live at the end of next week).

Free School Meals

For parents of students eligible to Free School Meals (FSM) that have responded to our text message last week regarding the National FSM voucher scheme, vouchers have been ordered for those electing to be part of the scheme. The national system is currently experiencing exceptional demand and this has led to the delayed issue of some vouchers. We are liaising with the

Governments supplier to ensure the vouchers are sent as soon as possible. If you haven't registered for the scheme please follow the instructions in the text message received or phone main reception if you haven't received a text and you believe your child is eligible for FSM.

For those not registered for the scheme, grab bags are available from school each day between 11:30am and 1pm (excluding Good Friday and Easter Monday) and students can collect two or three days at a time to reduce the number of trips to school. We will be in contact with parents after Easter regarding any changes to the provision for students eligible to FSMs.

Accessing a place in school for vulnerable or keyworker children

The best place for students is to remain at home, however, our school remains open to students whose parents are Key Workers or are a vulnerable young person who cannot be safely looked after at home. Please complete the Google Form on our website by 09.00 on Friday each week so that we can ensure we have the correct level of staffing in each week. All students in school will receive a hot meal during the day to support our families.

The form can be accessed by clicking on the Covid 19 header at the top of the website. Our reception is manned and a senior leader is in at all times.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you that have contacted the school or tutors and recognised the work that the staff are doing to ensure that students are well supported and that they can still access the very best education under the circumstances. I know that you and I are hugely appreciative that staff, as keyworkers, putting their own and family's health at risk, are onsite working with children, manning the phones and ensuring that the site is open, clean, and that we are providing what food we can to families under these difficult circumstances. Many staff have been in school this holiday, as well as many working through the holiday preparing all the materials for online learning, re-writing lessons and resources to support. My thanks to them all.

Please all stay safe together, and do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way.

Kind regards



Anita Frier
Executive Principal

Education details for students:

Year 7 and 8

Students will work through their daily tasks as mentioned above. They will be assessed on the work they 'hand in' in the Google Classrooms, Hegarty maths, work undertaken on Tassomai and also every Friday they will complete a multiple choice google quiz which are questions from each subject based on their learning in that week. These are all collated.

Year 9

Students will work through their daily tasks as mentioned above, the content being delivered is the GCSE and BTEC content so it is crucial students are completing to a high standard and asking for help as required. They will be assessed on the work they 'hand in' in the Google Classrooms, Hegarty maths, work undertaken on Tassomai, the Health assignment that we have set and also every Friday they will complete a multiple choice google quiz which are questions from English, Science and Modern Britain. These are all collated.

Year 10

Students will work through their daily tasks as mentioned above, the content being delivered is the GCSE and BTEC content so it is crucial students are completing work to a high standard and asking for help as required. They will be assessed on the work they 'hand in' in the Google Classrooms by their class teacher who is monitoring that students are not getting behind in their work. Students will also be assessed on their BTEC Health assignments.

Year 11

We appreciate that this is a particularly difficult time especially given the uncertainty surrounding exam results. We have been given guidance on what we as a school need to do by OFQUAL, and the information that we need to share with exam boards. Teachers are not allowed to share this information with students.

In the meantime we are conscious that many of you will be wanting to embark on your next steps and start preparing for next year including those who are planning on staying at SDCC to start their ALevel/BTEC qualifications in September. In order to make this a smooth transition we need to ensure that your skills and knowledge remain at a high level to cope with these challenging courses. Any student wishing to study A levels/Btecs should join the Google Classrooms that will be shared via the year 11 google classroom and also given on the personalised phone call you will all be receiving. Sixth form teachers will then begin to work with you on transition work from GCSE into A Level so you can hit the ground running in September. If you planned to leave SDCC and have changed your mind please email Mr Tinkler and he will be able to speak to you individually. Any issues please contact Mr Gill or Mr Tinkler via email.

Year 12

All teachers are continuing to set lessons in line with the A Level/BTEC specifications. Students must remain up to date and complete all work set. Teachers will be contacting home if students aren't completing their work and their place on the course could be in jeopardy. If students are struggling they should contact their subject teacher and Mr Tinkler (Head of Post 16) immediately so we can offer additional support.



3 April 2020

GCSE, AS and A level students in England

A message for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the [announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news](#). I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated? Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course. This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board. **Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?**

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed. **Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?**

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this

with you.

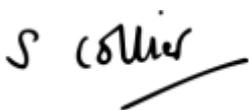
I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades. We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

When will I get my results? We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need. **Can I take my exams another time?** We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website. Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish,



Sally Collier

Chief Regulator, Ofqual