



28th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your help and support in the changes made this week as we move to a Virtual School. We are in the first few days of what might be several weeks of learning online, and almost all students have been engaged in our online learning.

Education

It is crucial that students complete the work set so that they continue with good habits of learning during this time away from school. Class teachers will have communicated any specific coursework deadlines and criteria with the students, this needs to be a priority along with core lesson work. Much of this work is set digitally on Google Classroom. Class teachers will use this platform to monitor student work as well as a communication method to help them understand any misconceptions they may have.

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. Students are to use their timetables as a guide to how to plan their day, making sure they incorporate breaks and a time to eat.

This week is **Phase 1** and is allowing us to test what works well and what needs to be changed. All students have been set work via the website and google classroom. We will continue to use the COVID19 Students Work section to post work. We will update work every 2 weeks, and I will write to let you know when new material has been added.

Phase 2 – Easter Holiday, runs between 30th March and April 9th – this will go live on our website over the next few days.

- Students that have yet to complete the work that has been set so far need to continue to do this.
- There are some optional curriculum enrichment lessons
- There are some optional fun and creative activities to keep students (and whole families) occupied.

We have done this to provide some structure and continuity in an unstructured and difficult time. This is the Easter holiday, but with restrictions in force, we felt that it was important to put some structure in place for those who want it.

We move into **Phase 3** on 14th April. We will start Virtual School with a clear timetable of lessons for all students, including reading and extra curricular after learning activities. On a

Friday we will have a fun activity or challenge that students can complete (Fun Friday!) and will allow students to post their responses and tweet the work they have been doing. I will write with further details before we 'virtually' return to school on the 14th April.

Year 11 & 13 students – full guidance from the DfE regarding examinations and results will be out before the end of the holiday so we will write to you with an update as soon as we know. Please continue to complete and improve on coursework and assignments. We will also let you know what you need to do next. 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

Each week you will receive a phone call from your tutor or keyworker from school. The purpose of the call is to check on student's welfare during this unstable time and also to ensure that they are continuing with their education and engaging in the work set. Having two children myself, I also know how hard it is to sometimes get them working at home, so we are here to support you to ensure they are doing this. If you are not in when we call, if you have the facility we will leave a message, otherwise it will come up as a missed call from school (as staff are using our school remote phone system from home). Please do not phone the school back as we will not know who has called you, but either wait for another call or email the tutor to arrange a convenient time to talk.

Free School Meals

For all students entitled to Free School Meals, we offer a grab bag which can be collected from the main reception. We can give several days' worth of grab bags at a time subject to shelf life dates. We will continue to provide these throughout the Easter holiday period, including Bank Holiday.

Access to school

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.

Other Messages

Curriculum Enrichment Week

Unfortunately we have had to cancel all the trips booked for our Curriculum Enrichment Week in July which we were so looking forward to. A letter has recently been sent to you with further details. All deposits paid will be refunded in full back through Parentpay over the next few weeks.

Stay at home. Save lives. Anyone can spread coronavirus

We ask all our parents and carers to remind and reinforce the U.K. government's message with our students at home.

#StayHomeSaveLives

We must all do our bit to fight coronavirus. Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

- Do not meet up with people you do not live with. This is for everyone's safety.
- Do not meet up with family members from outside of your household. This is for everyone's safety.

We know they will want to go out and meet their friends and this is incredibly hard for all of us, especially with the spring weather. This is what we can all say at this time:

- We are staying in so we can go back out
- We're staying apart so we can get back together

Don't put lives at risk. Follow the rules. Stay at home.

And finally, can I thank **you all** for your support and understanding during this time, and also I would like to thank **all the staff** that have worked really hard this week to contact all tutees and set work in such a short time. I have received some lovely messages of support from parents for the staff via email and through our 'Thank a Teacher' form on our website – staff have really appreciated the support from you.

Kind regards



Anita Frier
Executive Principal