



31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent,

## Year 10 update

Hopefully you will have seen the advice (***copied again below***) from our Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March update to reassure you regarding home learning.

This letter is to specifically address concerns you and/or your son/daughter may have about the time we are missing to cover all the content in the GCSEs and how this may impact on their own exams and results in Summer 2021. We will be sending a similarly reassuring message to your son/daughter's teachers, who are also anxious about this.

### **No New Learning**

We know that some schools are continuing to try and deliver new topics to GCSE students in an attempt for them not to fall behind. We know that some students will engage with this as best they can without the support of their teacher, with a varying degree of success.

We also know that there will be a wide variation in the levels of engagement, some of which will be beyond the control of these young people (for example: access to internet/devices, illness, family circumstance etc.).

With so many variables, it will be inevitable that our teachers would end up re-teaching these topics on our return. As such, we are of the view that deeply reviewing and embedding topics they have already covered is a much better use of time and build a solid foundation for accessing new learning when they return.

### **How will these gaps impact on their final grade?**

As things stand, and in all honesty – nobody knows. This is despite the speculation that is rife and, whilst understandable, largely unhelpful.

What we are confident in is that some adjustment will need to be made, as the exam boards will not be in a position to assume that all content has been covered by any school.

We are also confident that individual students will not be penalised for a situation completely beyond their control and we will be working tirelessly and robustly to ensure this is the case.

### **Our ongoing commitment**

Your children will remain a high priority in planning going forward.

In the meantime, there is so much anxiety about so many things, we would simply ask that you support us in encouraging our Year 10 students to engage in the activities that they have been set, in the context of the advice below.

Over the next couple of days, we will be publishing on our website a reading list and a watch list for all of our subjects. These articles, programmes and clips are being put together by our teachers to enable our students to deepen their current curriculum understanding and give them access to knowledge and learning that we wouldn't normally be in the position to cover with our lessons. We hope that you, as parents, will also find some of the resources interesting and stimulating and that they open up opportunities for conversation and learning for all.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of this then, as always, don't hesitate to contact us.

And please remember, we are all in this together and we will not let them down or be forgotten.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs Gwinnett  
Executive Head

Mr J Lewis  
Head of School

### **Home Learning – Managing Expectations**

- Some families have contacted us expressing concern about the amount of work being provided.
- Please be aware that there are **NO NEW TOPICS being covered**. All of the work we are setting is to review, revise and embed the learning that has already taken place in school with topics we have already taught.
- In this way, nobody will fall behind if they miss a piece of work set. We will start where we left off when we return.
- It is for you as a family, and individual students, to pick and choose from the work available to help keep their minds active and to keep their learning live. We are simply providing enough for those of you who want to do more but nobody will be judging anybody on how much is done. Many of you have more than enough to worry about without this added pressure.
- You must build this around a wide variety of activities which may include physical exercise, reading, creativity, cooking, gardening or simply relaxing, watching films, chatting with each other as a family (!) or close friends online. Make the most of enjoying the opportunities this enforced grounding is offering.
- Please don't worry about doing lots of writing as this is unlikely to be marked (unless Year 11 mocks). Where possible, do online tasks with built in feedback/marking. And particularly, encourage reading and researching and watching the kind of programmes you may not usually watch like documentaries, or links being recommended.
- Please do not argue about any of this! It is more important that you focus on working out how to be so closely confined as a family and how to get on. It won't be the end of the world if this work isn't done, it is much more important that you have harmony in your homes. All this will keep and remember, there is no new learning! Enjoy what you can and leave us to pick up what isn't working for you.
- We know that many of you will be anxious but we are here to help so please email our [enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk) if you have any further concerns.