

24 April 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

I do this letter finds you and your family safe and well, I am writing to provide a weekly update below that I hope is of use.

### Wellbeing

As in my previous letters I have explained the importance of wellbeing. With the continuation of the lockdown and messages from the government regarding ongoing social distancing I want to reassure parents and students that we will get through this difficult time. Throughout the week, Pastoral Leaders have made welfare calls to all students, and in addition, form tutors have been busy writing messages to tutees so please ensure your child checks their school email account.

This week, I had the pleasure of delivering assemblies to all students, a key message of which is to remain healthy, talk to a trusted adult if feeling anxious and know that we are here if you need us. I want to extend this message to parent and carers; please do not stress about schoolwork, we will recover this lost time and we will ensure all students are exactly where they need to be. It is really important to find a balance in all of this and the health and well-being of all in our community is crucial at this time. We are here to support and help all of our families and so I would encourage you to contact the academy if you need any support at all. There are also lots of excellent resources and contacts listed on the academy website under the 'Wellbeing' tab.

### Online learning

Week two of our timetable commenced this week. It has been excellent to see so many students accessing Teams lessons and again I want to thank the amazing staff for adapting so quickly to this new way of teaching. I'm sure you have also heard the government announce the availability of additional online provision through the National Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize. The link for both platforms can be found here and also on our website:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Furthermore, BBC Bitesize can be accessed by using the red button on your TV. With the increase in virtual learning, a good understanding of e-safety is vital. A number of safer internet websites are listed on our website that you may find helpful <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>.

### Year 9 Options

Please note we are now starting the Year 9 GCSE Options process. I will write to Year 9 parents separately but wanted to ask that you ensure your child attends an assembly on Microsoft Teams with Mr Collins at 09.30, Monday 27 April. A Teams invite will be sent to your child. If you are unable to attend all information will be sent to you.

### Free School Meals

From week commencing 24 April, all free school meal vouchers will be issued via the Government Scheme. This system is very slow and at present there is a delay of up to 48 hours, if you have not



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received your vouchers by the end of Monday 27 April, please contact the academy on 0161 886 6500 and we will do our very best to support you.

### Ramadan

Today we begin the holy month of Ramadan, when our Muslim families observe fasting from dawn until dusk. This year Ramadan will be like no other with lockdown in place and so I want to send my thoughts and best wishes to all our Muslim students, parents and teachers during this time.

Take care and stay safe.

With kind regards,

Mrs M Dillon  
Principal



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