

3.4.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

A week ago I sent you an email after our first day of operating remotely and indicated that I would write regularly with an update.

The vast majority of our students are working really well remotely and they should be applauded. Every week day students receive one hour of work in each of their subjects and they submit this by 4:00PM. If you feel your son/daughter is not working on a daily basis please feel free to contact us and we can clarify our expectations with them.

We have a very small number of students that regularly tell their teachers they are unable to work due to sickness – but we have not had parental phone calls registering this. Our normal sickness reporting systems are still in place. Our phone lines are diverted to the houses of members of staff so we can pick up when you inform us if your son/daughter cannot complete work due to sickness.

Easter is going to be a bit different and although students will be looking forwards to a break from the daily work, there will be a challenge of remaining in lock down without that routine. To help support students, we have organised the following for the Easter holidays:

- Our wellbeing service will continue – and any student can contact myself, Martin Pilkington or Sadia Afzal as a first point of contact in any emergency
- Our daily enrichment signposting will continue
- Our student and staff Strava club will continue to promote regular exercise (Strava is a free exercise tracking app)
- We have set students plenty of engaging homework in their subjects, so there is lots to get stuck into for both weeks
- Most courses have a mid-Easter checkpoint when teachers are available for live chat, so misconceptions don't build up
- Our College and subject area social media feeds will continue putting out content to stimulate students
- The Principally Speaking broadcast on Instagram will operate a Wednesday only service during the holidays

Students are currently completing plans where they reflect on their progress so far and plan for improvement (the ILP – or Individual Learning Plan). We are now working on organising Parental Logins so you can see the progress and plans that your son/daughter has made. I hope to be able to update you shortly with further details.

Finally, you may have other children in different year groups with far less work than our students – that doesn't mean our students have too much work at all. It's simply YR12 (YR1 of A levels) are the group least affected by the lock down – as young adults, students are very capable of learning remotely and their final assessments will not be adapted because of the current public health situation. This means that the best thing we can all do is maintain learning as usual, even though the circumstances are far from usual.

I'd like to close by wishing you all a restful two weeks and hope you have some excellent time together in families.

Stay safe,

Mark Rothery
Principal

