



13th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide an update on our Home Learning programme and information regarding other resources available to students.

### **Home Learning**

Thank you for continuing to support your children with their Home Learning. We appreciate that it is very different to learning within a classroom setting and we realise that some students are finding it difficult to work independently. However, we have received positive feedback on the adaptations we have made to the Key Stage 3 Timetable and we will continue to review the workload for Year 10 and 12 students. It is important that our students complete the work set by their teachers so that they don't fall behind in their studies. They are able to access all tasks through Show my Homework and Google Classroom. Teachers and Pupil Progress Leaders are using Google Classroom and email to maintain contact with students and support them where necessary.

Since Year 11 and Year 13 students completed their courses, teachers have not been setting any compulsory work. For these year groups we are focusing on transition materials to prepare them for the next stage in their education. Year 13 resources are available on Google Classroom. We are creating a new site for Year 11 students that will include transition resources to prepare them for A Level study. Whilst these will not be compulsory, we want to encourage students to engage with them as they have been specifically designed to help students bridge the gap between study at GCSE and A Level.

### **Other resources and opportunities for students**

In addition to Home Learning guided by teachers, there are other valuable resources and opportunities for students at this time. Each year group has access to a Google Classroom where this information is posted so please remind your son/daughter to access this.

For example, Eton College have made two of their online self-study courses from the EtonX Future Skills Programme available, free of charge, for our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils. Year 11 have been offered the chance to sign up for Creative Problem Solving and Year 13 for Making an Impact. We are delighted that a number of our students have already taken advantage of this opportunity. All students who complete the course will receive a certificate from Eton College.

**Speakers for Schools** have launched a Virtual Talks programme - excellent for Careers Education. Students who have taken advantage of this opportunity have given extremely positive feedback. The schedule for the Speakers for Schools - Virtual Talks programme for the week commencing 11th May can be found via this link:

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>

## Careers

You should have now received the CEIAG newsletter created by Mrs Ferguson, Assistant Headteacher. This includes details of the new BeReady platform, that is now available on the School Website in the Careers Area. Students should check their school email account for their personal BeReady login details. They will receive further instructions on how they can make use of this resource.

## The phased reopening of schools

Since schools were closed there has been increasing speculation about when and how students might eventually return to the classroom. I am sure that you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement regarding children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 returning to their primary schools from 1st June. He also referred to the ambition for students in Year 10 and Year 12 to have 'at least some time with their teachers before the holidays' and this was repeated in the lengthy 'Government plan to rebuild' document which refers to the possibility of some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils in support of their continued remote, home learning.' There is no expectation that these students will return on a full-time basis, before the end of term.

The following guidance was published for parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

I realise that this announcement may have caused anxiety for parents, students and staff and there are many questions to be answered before we make any plans regarding any form of contact with Year 10 and Year 12 students within school. I want to assure you that the health and safety of our students will remain at the heart of any discussions over the coming weeks and that we will keep you updated as we explore possibilities.

We continue to hold the whole school community in our thoughts and prayers at this time, particularly those families who have experienced illness or bereavement.

Yours faithfully,



Andrea Waugh-Lucas,  
Headteacher