

Dear Parents and Carers

We have now completed two weeks of Lock-down and once again I am grateful to you for keeping your child(ren) safe at home and for supporting them (where you can) with distance learning. The last two weeks have been a steep learning curve for teachers and students alike.

I have attached a couple of documents for you to read. The first is for our year 11 and year 13 students who have been anxiously waiting for news about how their grades will be predicted. For year 10 English Literature exams the picture is not yet clear, so we wait to hear what will happen there. Once again as the attached letter states - do not under any circumstances contact teachers for grades - as they have been directed by Ofqual NOT to talk to you about this. Whilst no student will be penalised for not working (or for being in a home that cannot support them) during distance learning, our teachers will continue to take all evidence they already have **and will take into account** any evidence they continue to receive over the time remaining (we are not yet clear precisely when the predictions are to be submitted). It is therefore VERY important that all evidence of distance learning at home is scanned / uploaded to teachers AND saved at home in case it is needed. Exam boards are aware we cannot validate the independent nature of work submitted from home, however teachers will be able to determine if high quality work has continued at home and this can inform their judgements. We will of course keep all work that we hold in school safe, for the same reason.

I learnt just the other day that the "notes app" on my phone can scan (by simply using the camera icon in the app) any hand written document, and then I can email the scan - so an easy way to record all work being completed for exams at home. If your child(ren) have completed all the content for their courses, then I would recommend they start work on pre-learning for their next stage of learning, either A levels or College course or University Degrees etc. There are plenty of online sites to help them start working towards their chosen specialist subject areas.

Of course all students (not just exam classes) should keep all evidence of their work at home. Over the Easter holidays whilst teachers won't be setting distance-lessons they will set some "homework" just to keep things ticking over. At school we are also sending out information on internet safety to help you monitor that your child(ren) is/are keeping safe while on-line. And we are also monitoring students who have not yet accessed the distance learning work set by teachers, we will contact you if this is the case for your child(ren). It is really important that all students continue learning over the next few months so they are ready for school when we finally return to normal.

The second document is a bit of family fun for the holiday - creating a time-capsule. We are living through an unprecedented time in our lifetimes, and we should take time to acknowledge how distressing and amazing this experience is. Thursday night at 8pm is now a highlight for me, applauding our NHS workers, it gives me chance to physically express my gratitude to these front line workers, and also a chance to wave to all my isolating friends and neighbours on the street where I live. Such strange times as these should be captured, a record of how we feel and what we are doing to cope and to help others. So that, in the

future, we can look back to remind ourselves, astounding our future relatives about this extraordinary and frightening time. Each week we hear more tragic stories of families losing loved ones to the virus, and this is not limited to just the frail or elderly. We all understand and adhere to the isolation and distancing measures, in order to protect ourselves and each other, delaying the spread of the virus and reducing the risks in our community. Whilst these measures can be frustrating we are frequently prompted to remind ourselves we are not "stuck at home" rather we are "safe at home". I sincerely hope you and yours are safe and well at home.

Sunday is due to bring us some glorious spring weather to kick-off our Easter Holiday. However it will be a strange holiday where we all stay home. But at least we can relax and enjoy a break while we continue to adapt to these new ways of working at a distance, which looks set to continue for a considerable time. Your new Headteacher was in school this week meeting members of SLT so that he is in a good position to take distance learning forward after Easter in the best possible way to support all our families during this time.

Kind regards to you all

Janette Smith