

27 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As we reach the end of our first week of closure for all year groups, I write to provide an update and importantly to thank you for all you are doing to support the school and our young people at this time.

Through my letters last week, we were able to introduce our new home learning provision, student emails and a contact email for support. Understanding what work we would make available to young people and how we intended to support them was a priority for many at that time. Over the last week the questions and requests we have received have varied and shifted as we all get used to the current circumstances. We have attempted to address the most common questions through the FAQ document emailed to parents earlier this week. A copy of this can be found on the website for future reference. A reminder that the best email address to send queries regarding home learning to is: homelearning@wolfreton.co.uk. We have a team of staff who respond to home learning emails during school hours. Where questions arise that require further work or new systems, these will be addressed and updates will follow. It is our aim to establish approaches and systems that will be effective and sustainable for our whole community. We thank you for your patience with this.

One question that has been posed relates to how exactly much work needs to be done. We began with the aim of replicating the work which would be covered in school and for many, though not all families, this is the right thing. As a school we thank you for all of your efforts to support with the work provided. It is important however, that we confirm that we fully understand that families have commitments and responsibilities, and are able to do this in different ways. We are supportive of the creative twists and alternative experiences being provided, including through gardening, cooking or creative activities. While encouraging our young people to engage fully with the work set in these early weeks, we equally recognise that supporting our families and each other through these challenging times is the most important thing at this time. In essence, we recognise that our families, as we are, are doing what they can at this time and we do support that.

We have been overwhelmed by the numbers who have logged on to SAM learning and our other online platforms to continue their learning. We have selected these platforms as we can guide the learning whilst they can give direct feedback to our young people on the accuracy of their work at a time convenient to them. As we continue to develop a motivating, effective but also sustainable approach to recognising home learning, our subject leaders are first focusing on preparing a number of self-checking resources to accompany some of the work posted on SharePoint. These will be uploaded over the next week enabling youngsters to access these to self-check work they have completed. Further information on other feedback will follow from the team leading this in due course.

Last week we received confirmation that GCSE and A Level exams were cancelled for young people in Years 11 and 13. Following this I wrote to parents to share the information that we had at that time. We are

awaiting further guidance and will respond when we receive this. This news was incredibly difficult for so many who had worked so hard to reach this point and we fully understand the hurt and disappointment many may be feeling. We continue to encourage our youngsters to see their learning and preparations to date as just part of the journey that will enable them to progress to their next stage of their lives, be that sixth form, an apprenticeship, college or university. Whilst we await confirmation on the procedures we will be required to follow, we ask that young people do not email their teachers directly asking for answers about grades. We will work with fairness and integrity when guidance is provided to us.

Before school closed last Friday, I met with those in Year 11 and 13 who were able to be in school. A week on I would like to remind them of one of my key messages at that time. This does not mark the end. Over the weeks ahead we will work through the practicalities of the Year 11 Year Book and we will put in place clear plans to mark the end of Year 11 and 13 when we are able to do so. We look forward to celebrating with you as we do with these year groups each year. We will also be in touch to support transition to sixth form, apprenticeships, college and university. Whilst we are working remotely, we fully intend to work through the practicalities and ensure this support can continue.

In a regular school week, we know that lots of young people access our Pastoral Team for their emotional and social concerns. Our House Teams are working to continue to support those in their House. If you would like to contact them at anytime, please email enquiries@wolfreton.co.uk and we will pass a message to them. During this challenging time we ask for your understanding that responses to emails may not be instant.

Finally, following the government announcement of further restrictions on movement earlier this week, we are now operating an absolute skeleton staff as we work to support Key Worker children. Our reception is now closed and main entrance to the school keypad controlled. Wherever possible, staff are working remotely therefore if you do need to contact the school, please do email enquiries@wolfreton.co.uk as we continue to check this.

We will continue to provide relevant updates to parents / carers as we receive them.

Can I take this opportunity to send my very best wishes to you, our young people and your wider families at this time. Look after yourselves and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Susanne Kukuc
Headteacher