

3 April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds both you and your family well at the end of what has been a very different fortnight. I would like to begin by thanking you for your expressions of support and for working alongside us to support our young people in their transition to home learning at this unprecedented time. In an early letter I referred to the relevance of our academy values of Excellence, Endeavour and Respect in this situation. Today, I look back over the recent weeks with real pride in just how often we have seen these reflected across our whole community, as we have all sought to address such new challenges and find our way forward together.

As a staff team, we have found it helpful to plan our approach to the current situation in distinct phases. Phase 1, the weeks leading up to the Easter break, draws to a close today. Our priority during Phase 1 was to ensure all of our young people and families were introduced to our learning platform and home learning resources, to understand any challenges in accessing these, and to provide some continuity in learning at what was unavoidably short notice. In these unprecedented times the Wolfreton staff adapted very quickly to provide our young people with a range of learning opportunities and remote support and I am grateful for everything that has been done to keep our young people learning. It is also the case that families and young people have worked together with commitment and collegiate spirit to adapt too. I do appreciate such rapid change can bring real challenges, particularly when you are trying to juggle the demands of home learning with your own work, family and other commitments. I therefore thank you for all of your efforts and for working with us to resolve any technical or support issues, as need has arisen.

This afternoon Wolfreton 'closes' for the Easter break, except for the very small number of young people for whom alternative arrangements have already been made as part of Phase 2 of the Wolfreton Learning Hub. This break will undoubtedly be very different for all. During this period I would encourage all of our young people, as I have done our staff, to take a break from their home learning so that they can begin again refreshed when the new term starts. Over the Easter fortnight teachers have not set work to enable families to have this break and, in addition, the academy office will not be open. On Monday 20 April, as the official term restarts, work will be uploaded and I will write again to give further details of how we will journey together through Phase 3. If your child does not have access to a computer to complete the online work after Easter, please do contact enquiries@wolfreton.co.uk and let us know, leaving your child's name, year and tutor group and we will do our best to get a pack to you within any government restrictions at the time.

We all recognise that this has been a period of unprecedented change. It is therefore understandable that our young people may be missing their friends and wider family, whilst having their own worries about loved ones and about what the future holds. Digital and social media can provide so many positives at such times but it rarely allows us to switch off. In addition, as we have seen in the media over recent days, the rapid growth in usage of apps to support face-to-face social networking can bring challenges and concerns both in relation to security and well-being. We are therefore updating the Safety and Well-being page within the Information section of our website. In doing so we are adding links to more online safety guidance, which you may find of interest at this time.

I appreciate that this Easter break is going to be very different for us all as we continue to follow the government's advice to 'stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives'. However, I do send you my very best wishes and hope that you stay safe and keep well over Easter and enjoy the time together as best you can under the circumstances.

Yours faithfully

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Susanne Kukuc
Headteacher