

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

On this the last day of half-term, a Friday for those of you like me who are forgetting what day of the week it is, I just wanted to say a massive thank you for all the wonderful messages of support we have received from you and the children. I also want to say what a fantastic job you are doing as parents and carers in supporting your children with their work and with them dealing with this current situation.

Further to the letter sent out earlier this week, I wanted to remind you that the school continues to be open for the vulnerable and the children of keyworkers. In spite of what certain areas of social media might be claiming, this is in no way a holiday for school staff. I want to pay tribute to the teachers and particularly the support, pastoral and office staff who are regularly forgotten but who always go above and beyond: phoning to check on families and pupils, delivering food parcels for those who are struggling and much more. We are truly blessed.

I also would like to remind you that no work will be set for students next week as it would be half-term. This may be an opportunity for those pupils who have fallen behind with work to catch up, but the most important thing is for everyone to have some quality family time together as far as possible.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson once said, "a week is a long time in politics". I am finding that a day is a long time in education and by the time you have read this, we may have received further guidance on expectations for schools. However, as mentioned in the previous letter, we are currently, tentatively thinking of working towards inviting cohorts of year 10s back into school from the 15<sup>th</sup> June, but this will only happen if we believe we can do it in a safe way for both pupils and staff. It would be really useful to us if parents of year 10 could complete the survey regarding this if not already completed. It is posted on the Home Page of school website.

I have done 2 zoom assemblies over the last couple of weeks. One with year 10s and one with year 7s. It is strange that after leading hundreds of assemblies over the years, I am finding these quite nerve-racking. I hope to lead assemblies for years 8 and 9 in the first couple of weeks after half-term. Please look out for a text informing you of this. The zoom link and instructions will then be emailed out to pupils (using the email address registered on showmyhomework). I would also like to do something for the year 11s too as the planned prom will no longer be able to take place – such a strange time for everyone.

Anyway, until we next meet again, thanks again, keep safe, keep sane and remember we are here for you.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Hickey  
Headteacher



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