



21 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## Updated information about distance learning

Thank you for your understanding that teachers are trying to do the best for your child and are putting a lot of time into creating resources to support learning at home. Today, we have contacted teachers to ask that they reduce the amount of work they are setting for each lesson. This is in response to feedback from some parents that is telling us that the amount of work is too much for some children.

To further support students some tasks may be labelled 'Main Task' followed by others labelled 'Optional Task.' A task labelled as 'Main Task' will help you to identify what is the most important learning. 'Optional Tasks' are extension-based activities which will allow children to complete work to further their learning if they wish to.

If at any point your child finds the amount of work set in any subject too much, or is finding the work set too difficult, please ensure your child moves on to work in a different subject and contact the teacher. You can use the message feature on your child's Show My Homework account to contact teachers. This can be found at the bottom of each homework description. You might find this the easiest way to contact a teacher or you can email teachers.

All deadlines for work will continue to appear as the Sunday of each week. We asked staff to do this in response to feedback we received from some parents to ensure that you will be able to see all work for a week in one block in the homework list. A feature of Show My Homework is that it will send you a message once a deadline has been missed and we cannot alter this. You will therefore receive automatic messages from Show My Homework to tell you that work has not been submitted. Please ignore these messages and we recommend that you switch off your alerts on Show My Homework and only look at it when you have time. Staff have been told that work from one week should not be expected to reach them until the first lesson of the following week. Staff will start to send messages to students at this point to check if they need any help with the work.

Work for each subject will be posted either in one block for the whole week or as individual lessons. This information will be included in the title of the work set. Work will be set by 9am on the day that the lesson appears on your child's timetable. We hope that this will help with planning and completion of the work.

With reference to the next academic year, and in particular 'GCSE Options', students should still keep working on all curriculum areas. We will contact you about the subjects available in the next few weeks and confirm the allocation by May half term. Miss Perry, Senior Deputy Head, Mr Wyatt, Head of Year, or Mr Taylor, Director of Learning for year 10, will contact you with more information about option choices in the coming weeks.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need support or help with any aspect of your child's learning or well-being. We value your input in helping us to make the best out of the situation we are currently in.

Yours sincerely

Louise Duff (Mrs)

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING FOR YEARS 7-9

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