



HEADTEACHER

Mr B. Heeley B.Ed Hons, NPQH

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week since my last email. The latest report from our Prime Minister yesterday signalled that we may have turned a corner in our fight against this terrible virus. However, as we continue in lockdown it is vitally important that we continue to protect ourselves and others by following the guidance. I have again been contacted by Cheshire Police regarding groups of young people congregating and socialising whilst not in school. The youngsters are not necessarily causing issue but are in clear breach of the guidance around social distancing. Please, please ensure that your child observes the guidance and stays safe.

Our Resource Hub continues to develop and work posted on the Padlet is outstanding so please continue to support your child to engage in home study through the hub. I appreciate that at times this may be difficult particularly if there is more than one child accessing home study work when there may be only one computer in the home. If this is the case please do not worry – you can only do what you have the resources to do. Any home study from the Resource Hub is better than no study at all.

To support the well-being of all, I would also encourage, where possible to do family things together. Such things as going for a walk, watching a film at home or playing a game together can offer opportunity for positive interaction amidst what can be worrying and negative times for our youngsters.

VE Day commemorations

Had normal times resumed and we were in school next week we would have commemorated VE day (Victory in Europe Day) throughout the school by remembering the 75th anniversary of this event.

Sadly due to the lock down situation this is not possible in school however that does not stop us remembering this significant day at home. If you are able please promote the remembrance of VE day with family. We have highlighted the day on our website and if you click on the banner it will lead to an activity that all children can become involved in. The History department will be setting work relating to VE day to all KS3 pupils and will be sending out emails explaining this. Students can also become involved through the links detailed below.

<https://youtu.be/CKLvXOdnJ-A>

<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/>

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75>

Year 11 Sixth Form Applicants 2020

Transition tasks are now live on the hub. Students, parents and carers have been contacted directly and sent a link that will take them directly to the area they need. All students have been told they are expected to access all tasks for their chosen subject and concentrate on getting themselves up to speed and prepared to start their chosen courses when Year 12 gets underway. If anybody has any problems accessing these tasks, please contact Miss Hughes, Head of Sixth Form on rhughes@whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk.

Free School Meals Update

Thank you for all the positive emails relating to the free school meal vouchers. Following a few gremlins in the system all seems to be working now. Thank you to my Finance Manager for her hard work and patience with Edenred to make this happen.

McColl's joins the free school meals national voucher scheme

McColl's has joined the list of supermarkets that will redeem vouchers secured through the free school meals national voucher scheme. Supermarkets available also include Aldi, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose, M&S, Asda and Morrisons.

Guidance on providing free school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>

Mental Health Support

Please see the following links and attachments for schools during the lockdown period. The Mental Health Crisis telephone line is provided by CWP and is accessible 24/7.

The myHappyMind Light programme is a free resource for all primary schools and is also available for Early Years settings. The attached impact report and school leaflet are from myHappyMind, which is the emotional health and wellbeing platform currently being piloted in 24 Primary Schools in West Cheshire.

Schools registration link: <https://myhappymind.org/light-enquiry>

Careers

Miss Connor will continue to forward any information which is useful to students using their school email. Please make sure your child checks this regularly. Some information e.g. about events may need prompt attention. Miss Connor will also send the information to form tutors and House staff so they are aware of what is on offer. If there are students, especially in year 11, 12 and 13 who need Careers advice would they please email Miss Connor with their name, school email address, contact number if they prefer and permission to pass this info on to Paula our Careers Adviser.

PPE Support

Following my email last week I can confirm that we are starting the manufacture of visors for the NHS again now new materials have arrived. Many thanks to Mr Milton and Mr Huxley for their support with this. In addition supporting the work of students through the Resource Hub, Mrs Balance has been busy working from home for the NHS. She has been supplying the Chester Countess Hospital with scrubs bags. Through personal contacts she has also supported ICU nurses at Leeds and North hospital with scrubs bags.

Apprenticeships Opportunities.

The following apprenticeships opportunities have been brought to our attention through an link with our school. The apprenticeships involve college attendance and on completion the salary opportunities are very good. The apprenticeships are open to students following Y11 and Y13 study. For further information please log on to:

https://iam.innogy.com/en/about-innogy/working-at-innogy/current-job-offers/job-offer-detail?id=27526-en_GB&fbclid=IwAR1331EdVj1_wph_GoyZZNbB8Ju6LJgPjumfVS6GSDf0Wq2j_myzifUtqE

Public Health England has updated their guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

Public Health England has published guidance for households with grandparents, parents and children living together where someone is at risk or has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

The guidance can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing eligibility extended to help protect the most vulnerable

The government has announced that anyone in England showing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) who has to leave the home to go to work, or is aged 65 and over, is eligible for testing along with members of their households with symptoms. This is in addition to all essential workers with symptoms. Testing can be booked through a new online system.

Guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, including who is eligible for a test, how to get tested and the different types of test available can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Essential Workers Testing for Coronavirus

The Whitby High School is an employer of almost 200 staff and the following information from the Secretary of State for Health, Nick Hancock, was sent to schools to support the wellbeing of all staff. If you or a member of your family is a Key Worker you may find the information useful.

Coronavirus testing for essential workers or their household self-isolating with symptoms, is vital to help get them back to their important work as soon as it is safe to do so. Ultimately, we want to make sure that every essential worker who needs a test can get one. To that end, last week we expanded testing out to more frontline staff. That means testing is now available, in England and Scotland initially, for:

- essential workers with symptoms
- people who live with essential workers and have symptoms

The full list of eligible essential workers can be found at

www.gov.uk/coronavirus-get-tested

For information on coronavirus symptoms and self-isolation, please refer to the national guidance

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Heeley
Headteacher