



8 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

WEEKLY UPDATE

Firstly, thank you to all parents and carers who have contacted the school expressing thanks and gratitude for the work staff are doing to support your children at home. We continue to review our practices as we move into the next stages of our response to COVID-19. Each household has different demands upon them, and we will endeavour to support as many of these demands as possible.

We are now planning for the staged return to school for Y10 and Y12 students. This return has been defined in the latest guidance from government as being “some face to face contact with teachers to support continuing home learning”. Further guidance is expected from government shortly along with a County approach by schools following the work between Headteachers and the Cheshire West and Chester local authority. I will keep you informed over the next week or so as to how this will be established within school.

Key Worker Childcare Provision

As we now plan for 1 June and beyond, I emailed you earlier this week with an e-survey to assist us to update our childcare provision as more parents and carers return to work and the demand will potentially increase. Thank you to those of you who have already responded, and please can I urge those that have not to do so by the deadline today if you require childcare. This will enable us to guarantee full coverage on Monday in a way that ensures safeguarding concerns are met. To access the survey please follow the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Hb5f2cACE0uq30qVQfew_QeuAonyjxFPIqURLwDENKNUN0pHN1RFQVdOVU9BSDU1VkoyRU9RNjIRMi4u

Contact with School

It is important that through these difficult times we keep communication between students and school open. I would like to stress again that if students are struggling or have any concerns generally or about their work, they should be keeping in touch with their Form Tutors, HPMs and teachers through emails or contacting school generally.

As parents and carers, we would also like to ask you to keep informing us of anything that you think is important particularly with regards to your child’s wellbeing. We need to have an overview about such things as **bereavements, whether Covid-19 related or not** plus things that may have happened over the Lockdown that you believe we should be aware of. Please continue to inform House Progress Managers so that appropriate support can be put in place on their return to school.

Please can I remind you that when emailing school about specific information relating to your child, **we will not respond to emails sent from a company or business email address**. We will only respond to specific child related queries that come to us from a personal email address related to that child. I am sure that you will appreciate that by responding to an employer based email address this could breach GDPR regulations and safeguarding best practice – potentially putting your child at risk.

Year 11 into 12 Applicants

Don’t forget that there bridging tasks for all our Sixth Form courses on our Hub. The link to access them is as follows:

<https://sites.google.com/whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk/twhs-resource-hub/year-11-y12-in-sept>

A huge well done to those students who are busy completing the tasks, your efforts are much appreciated. Engagement in these tasks will continue to be monitored. If you are unable to access these tasks for any reason, please contact Miss R Hughes to discuss further.

Critical Workers

Children of critical workers are encouraged to attend school, and to reflect plans for wider opening of schools from 1 June, at the earliest. Updated information defining vulnerable children, in line with existing guidance, for the purpose of continued education.

[Critical workers who can access schools or educational settings](#)

This guidance is applicable to 31 May 2020 and will be reviewed before 1 June 2020.

Preparations for National Thank a Teacher Day – Wednesday 20 May

On Wednesday 20 May, we are celebrating teachers, senior leaders, support staff and all those working in education settings who are making a difference to their schools and communities during the coronavirus outbreak. The DfE is working in partnership with the Teaching Awards Trust which has produced a set of resources including a Thank a Teacher toolkit containing graphics, images and frames for social media that you're free to use toolkit:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Thank-a-Teacher-Day-2020-Tool-Kit.pdf>

Virtual Careers Festival

We are excited to be part of the [Virtual Career Festival – Paving the Way](#) hosted by The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership. Launching at 11am on Tuesday 19th May – Friday 22nd May. We encourage all students in Y10 – Y13 to participate in this innovative four day programme.

Summary of Programme:

DAY 1 & 2: Tune in at 11am on Tuesday to meet your hosts who will let you know what to expect and how to join in. We then have a whole host of videos from over 50 local employers giving a snapshot of a "Day in the Life" of their career and job.

DAY 3: Today is the day you get to explore what you may like to do next in education. Perhaps you want to go to college, university or do an apprenticeship?

DAY 4: The final day is very hands-on. The activities will help you plan for your future job from making a CV writing to interview skills making sure you can get a job!

Register: Please can students pre-register for the event, visit the [Paving the Way website](#) and click the orange button 'Register Now' at the bottom of the page. To keep up to date with all activity follow [@ThePledgeCW#PavingTheWay](#)

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 Conner 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 Years 11, 12 and 13 who need Careers advice would they please email Miss Conner with their name, school email address, contact number (if they prefer) and permission to pass this info on to our Careers Adviser.

Home Learning

It is great to see so many of our students engaging with our learning tasks. Details of the work set can be found on our Resource Hub <https://sites.google.com/whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk/twhs-resource-hub/home> under 'Subject Resources'. You can also see a sample of brilliant work on our online noticeboard <https://en-gb.padlet.com/lbegbie/homelearning> and we'd love to see more. Students can add their work by clicking on the pink cross in the corner of the screen.

We are very aware that for many households, this is very challenging time for a variety of reasons. We are also aware that students will be able to complete different amounts of learning, again, for a variety of reasons. Please be assured that we do understand, and we do not want to add additional pressures. You know your children best. Please encourage them to access the work as best they can for a reasonable amount of time. Based on your feedback (thank you for this) I have asked teachers just to put details of work on the Resource Hub and to reduce the amount of emails coming to students. I have also asked them to make sure that the tasks have clear deadlines and instructions.

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>

Coronavirus testing eligibility and how test and testing kits work

Guidance on coronavirus 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>

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has published guidance for members of the public and patients about coronavirus tests and testing kits, including information on the different types of tests available and how they work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-tests-and-testing-kits-for-coronavirus-covid-19-work>

Handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be used in various settings including schools and at home:

- <https://e-bug.eu/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr B Heeley
Headteacher