



Dear Parents/Carers,

WEEKLY UPDATE

I hope that you have managed to take some time over the Easter break to relax and spend time with family and friends albeit via electronic means. In these strange and worrying times I echo the media campaign at the moment to “keep in touch”. Some of us have elderly parents and relatives who live far away and I know from experience the joy a telephone call, Skype or Zoom communication brings to them. This week my update includes:

Home Learning

In my last email I encouraged parents and carers to remember the Easter holiday was just that, a holiday and a time for home schooling to ease and enjoy the break. We are of course now back into what would be the summer term and a time to resume studies through our Resource Hub. I am overwhelmed by the support from parents and carers and I thank you for supporting your child to study remotely. I know that studying at home brings its challenges however I have been impressed by the activity on the Resource Hub and work being sent into teachers by students from all year groups.

Now that we are back, students should be checking to see that they have completed what has been set by staff already. The next update to work set by teaching staff on the Resource Hub will be by the end of the day today so please encourage your child to log on and find out what it is they need to be doing to ensure they do not fall behind.

Parents and carers can check all work set for students by looking on the Resource Hub accessed here <https://sites.google.com/whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk/twhs-resource-hub/home>.

As discussed earlier, Learning Plans have been updated for the next 2 weeks. As well as learning plans, you will also find links to careers resources, enrichment activities and wellbeing resources..

Everything in moderation

It is important that your child keeps active with their studies over this unique period however can I please remind parents and carers to also be aware of your child’s workload – please encourage your child to do some work every day but not to become unduly stressed. Students do get anxious at times regarding their work so please reassure them that when schools reopen our teachers will be doing their best to get them back on track with any area they have struggled with.

On Line School Notice Board – The Padlet

Please do not forget that we wish to celebrate good work and so please encourage your child to upload more work for the virtual school notice board known as the Padlet. The work can be school work or activities you have done with them outside of the study plans from teachers. This allows everyone to appreciate the excellent work being completed at home. Students and staff can upload photos of great work to this online noticeboard here <https://en-gb.padlet.com/lbegbie/homelearning>

Online safely

As our students are spending a lot of time online completing their schoolwork remotely, we are keen that they are reminded how to stay safe whilst they are online, and know what actions to take should anything worry them. With this in mind, I encourage you to take a look at some of the online safety resources produced by the Government's Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Command. These resources can be found at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>. If in doubt please contact school.

The Mental Health Charity Mind has put together a guide for parents/carers to support teenagers during this period. The resources cover a number of areas and are well worth looking at for support if your child is struggling with any aspect of school closures and lockdown. These resources can be found at <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/coronavirus/supporting-your-teen-s-wellbeing-during-coronavirus/>

Supporting our NHS with PPE

In a previous email I discussed that the school wishes to support our NHS and Key Health Worker staff in whatever way that we can. In addition to all our Science safety goggles going to The Countess of Chester Hospital we have also mobilised some of our manufacturing equipment to produce elements of PPE for a number of other institutions.

Wash Bags

Many of our local hospitals are in need of much PPE and other essentials such as wash bags to pop their uniforms in safely for washing. Mrs Ball who teaches Textiles decided to make a large number of these bags using some suitable spare fabric from our DT department. I am pleased to inform parents and carers that these bags are now in use at Arrowe Park Hospital.

Visors

Our Head of Technology, Mr Milton has been using our computer controlled laser cutters to produce visors for the NHS. This has been part of a national campaign with the visors being produced to the exact standards required by health workers on the front line. To date we have made :

- 100 visors for The Royal Liverpool Hospital (delivered 7/4/20)
- 100 for The Countess of Chester Hospital (collected 8/4/20)
- 50 for The Great Sutton GP Centre (collected 9/4/20)
- 50 for The Women's Hospital in Liverpool (delivered 9/4/20)
- 50 for Alder Hey Hospital (delivered 9/4/20)

We are expecting more raw materials into school this week so that we can continue this important support as we work together at such a difficult time.

Mr R Morby

Many students will know Mr Morby who has been a Design & Technology and Construction teacher at the school for many years. On the 30 April 2020, Mr Morby, who has made a significant impact on the Technology Department during his time with us will retire and look forward to other opportunities he can now take advantage of. In addition to his teaching work he has worked tirelessly with our Duke of Edinburgh Awards students and been pivotal in all our school productions. I thank Mr Morby for all his hard work, commitment and loyalty to the school and wish him all the very best for the future.

Year 11 Prom

Having taken advice and when considering that an end to the total lockdown situation will not happen soon I have, with sadness cancelled the Year 11 Prom. It is unlikely that under the current restrictions such large gatherings of people will be permitted and therefore to remove undue anxiety around the event I have decided that the Prom will not go ahead as planned. Refunds for ticket cost of the prom will be made as soon as possible and for those students returning to us in September in our Sixth Form we can look at the possibility of rearranging something for them once back to normal.

Updated guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings

The guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings has been updated with additional information on the resources available to parents to help them educate their children at home, eligibility for device and connectivity at home, and keeping children safe online.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

Thank you for your continued support. Take care.

Mr B Heeley

Headteacher