

23 March 2020



**Headteacher:**

Dr R P Petrie BSc PhD

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you all for listening to the advice from the government in relation to keeping your children at home, self-isolating where appropriate, and maintaining social distance during these unprecedented times.

The national picture is changing rapidly, and as I receive updates on educational issues, I will communicate these to all parents and carers as quickly as possible.

If your child needs to collect anything from school, ie. PE kit, coursework or other items, please contact us via email on [reception@cockermouthschool.org](mailto:reception@cockermouthschool.org) to let us know when you would like to come for this. We will make provision for items to be collected between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00 for the rest of this week. Please do not just arrive at school, as we will be unable to allow anyone into school without prior arrangement.

It is a very uncertain time for us all, but especially students who were due to sit exams in the summer. At present the link below shows you the most recent advice we have from the government about the awarding of exam grades.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

Once we are given more information about the awarding of grades we will communicate with you. In the meantime, we advise that students continue with the tasks that teachers are setting. Any work on NEAs should stick to the rules that were in force prior to closure. Whilst in subjects like Art students may work on pieces from home, in other subjects there are different restrictions. Students should be aware of those, but if in doubt, they should contact the relevant teacher. Students should certainly keep hold of any work they have, as we do not yet know what will be called upon for assessment.

Please note that the awarding of grades is a key priority for us and we will allocate the staffing and resources accordingly. We ask that you do not contact us about grades at this point. We will contact you as and when we have the right information to pass on.

In time, we will be in touch to support students in their transition to their next step. We cannot emphasise enough that our Year 11s and 13s are still our students and we take our responsibility to them very seriously.

There has been an unprecedented demand for online learning resources today across the country and we recognise that this will have affected Cockermouth students as they have tried to access Firefly. We have been in touch with the company but the solution is out of our hands. In order to help staff and students catch up with their Firefly tasks, we will suspend Tuesday's tasks. This means that no new tasks for completion on Tuesday will be added to Firefly from 17:00 this evening. In turn, we are asking teachers to set their work for Wednesday by 13:00 on Tuesday and from that point on to keep one day ahead when setting work. This should mean that students are always able to see their tasks for the following day from 13:00 onwards. We thank you for your understanding during these difficult times.

I hope that you are all managing to keep safe, and I will be in touch when I have more information to share.

Yours sincerely

**Dr R P Petrie**  
Headteacher

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