

27 March 2020



Headteacher:

Dr R P Petrie BSc PhD

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of a tumultuous week for us all, I wanted to write again to thank you for your ongoing support of our school and our community. Unlike the stories I have heard from many schools around the country, our community has responded with common sense and understanding which means that we have been able to support our most vulnerable students and those of Key Workers far more effectively.

We now transition into another phase where this childcare provision will be managed through local hubs. In most areas, the overriding requirement is for primary age care and so most hubs are being based in larger primary schools around the region; ours is at Fairfield School. We are working with colleagues from Fairfield and all our other local schools to ensure that the hub is well-staffed and supported for the next six weeks or so and will review plans during this time. We have always had a strong bond between all of our local schools and this has been demonstrated time and time again this week as people have volunteered their time to support our children, our parents and our community.

We look forward next week to be able to provide you with greater clarity about how free school meals will be funded centrally and the systems that will enable us to ensure that every child receives at least one good meal per day over the coming period. We are also expecting further information from Ofqual and the exam boards regarding how qualifications are going to be awarded this summer and we will share this with you as soon as it is released. I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have maintained a positive, mature attitude despite all this turmoil. All of them have worked incredibly hard over the past few years and we will continue to work on their behalf to ensure that they receive the recognition they deserve and can progress smoothly on to the next step of their journey.

We are listening to your questions about the work being set remotely and would ask that you bear with us through this time. In a matter of days, we have transitioned from a fully-working school to a fully-remote home learning environment; there are bound to be teething troubles and we won't always get this right straight away. We have to exercise a huge amount of professional discretion in trying to set enough work to ensure that students are continuing to learn so that when schools reopen students have not fallen behind, with the understanding that the pressures on you and your children have to be managed. As I say, we are constantly reviewing this provision to find a balance that works for all of us and will keep refining our approach over the coming weeks

As an appendix to this letter, please see a message to parents and students from Dr Henley, our Deputy Headteacher (Teaching and Learning) about expectations over the Easter period.

Finally, our overriding priority has to be to follow the best medical advice, observe the required guidance and look after each other to keep ourselves as safe and well as possible. I hope that you and your family are managing to do so and are beginning to adapt to the new situation we find ourselves in.

Yours sincerely

Dr R P Petrie
Headteacher

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