

24th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

We are continuing to work hard to keep you informed and to remain connected. There are staff (both in school and at home) who will be ensuring we have spoken to, or contacted every household, within the next week or so. We will be sending these weekly bulletins home, but feel free to stay in touch with the school via social media for updates as well.

As you will be aware from the news, we are still awaiting plans for when the current circumstances of the lockdown might change. Please bear with us during these challenging times.

Following conversations with parents, we are working hard to ensure that concerns around volumes of work set are addressed. I appreciate both the feedback and the support you have given us. I want to reassure families that we are doing what we can to make work clear, accessible and manageable. Please can I extend my confidence in you to find your “new normal” for routines at home and to be confident that the routines you have set for your children will be suitable. This guidance will hopefully help you:

1. ***Routines and boundaries are really important.*** Children will need them as the structure of their lives has suddenly been altered. This is true for all households but is far easier said than done, as I am sure you are aware. Establishing start times, breaks and end times will help.
2. ***It's OK not to be OK.*** It's crucial that they are rules and boundaries in place, but parents must know that it's better to bend them than allow them to break. It's OK to not to feel on top of things. Some days will be great – others a complete flop – and that is fine!
3. ***Knowing why and how work has been set.*** You are all coming to terms with the difference involved in helping your children navigate maths and other subjects! We are working hard to make this a straightforward for you as possible by making sure you know what has been set.
4. ***Technology can help and hinder learning.*** Children navigate online resources quickly. Please keep a watchful eye and ask what they are doing. Online and commercial packages might claim to turbo-charge learning but are unlikely to be better than what we are providing.
5. ***Teaching is stressful.*** The importance of self-care and wellbeing for parent-teachers can't be overstated. Having a point of contact with the school can make all the difference. Please look after yourselves and use the guidance in these Bulletins.

With this in mind, please try to

- Follow the normal school timetable each day as much as possible.
- Complete 30-50 minutes on each subject per day - home learning is more intensive.
- Continue to monitor and review the work we are setting on Class Charts.
- If you are stuck on some work, email your teacher and move on until you receive a response.
- We understand that every home is different and that learning will likely take different forms.
- Please refer to the Guidance for Home Learning which was emailed within the Weekly Newsletter on Friday 27th March.

This guidance might also be useful:

<file:///C:/Users/Simon%20Duffy/Downloads/COVID-19%20Parent%20Pamphlet.pdf>

Work Set

Students should be working on tasks set from Monday 20th April 2020 onwards; this is the work from the start of term 5. Any work from before Easter does not need to continue to be completed, unless your child has time and would like to complete the Easter activities.

Y10 access to Microsoft Teams

Please ensure your child has accessed MS Teams if they are in Year 10 and are using this facility to access work and liaise with teachers. Work will be duplicated on Class Charts. Instructions for accessing MS Teams were attached to the letter sent last Friday 17th April.

Year 11 Update – Awarding Grades and Future Studies- Reminders for Year 11 Students

What we know about how GCSE grades will be awarded:

The school will be asked to send examination boards two pieces of information for each subject:

- The grade we believe students were most likely to get if school had stayed open and exams were taken (this is known as a centre assessed grade).
- Within each subject, the order of students at school, by performance, for each grade.

This information will allow examination boards to standardise grades across schools, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair. That means the final grade students get could be different from the one the school sends to the examination board.

How will centre assessed grades be awarded?

Centre assessed grades will be based on a wide range of information relating to student performance in a subject. This will include: classwork and homework; assessments and mock examinations; coursework and/or performances. Schools are not allowed to share or discuss centre assessed grades or rankings with students or their families.

When will students get their results?

The Year 11 results day will be Thursday, 20 August 2020. Students will receive a letter about Sixth Form enrolment, currently planned to take place on that day.

What can students do to prepare for future learning?

Students have been set work to ensure that they have covered their GCSE courses. In future weeks, students will be provided with enrichment learning in subjects that interest them – either because they enjoy them or they wish to continue studying the subject at a higher level. This learning will not be the beginning of the Year 12 course but will help to bridge the learning between Year 11 and 12 and allow students to find out more about the courses they have chosen.

Will students be able to start Year 12 courses with confidence?

We do not know when schools will re-open. We will adapt our Year 12 courses to help to bridge the gap between the unusual experience our Year 11 students have had and the demands of Year 12 courses.

CV Writing for Year 11

Mrs O'Brien has secured a 10 hour online course in CV writing for each of our Year 11 students from the prestigious Eton College. Please see attached letter regarding this.

Exciting Science!

Pinhole Day (which celebrates the science and history of Camera obscura, or pinhole cameras) is this **Sunday, April 26th**. It is possible to turn a room into a pinhole camera, using materials found around the home. Why not post the results on pinholeday.org and Twitter? Tag @WrenSchool in your photos so that we can all see your efforts!

How to make a camera obscura in a room (*Credit to T Conlon from IOP/Kendrick School*)

A short 40 second video by Justin Quinnell <https://www.instagram.com/p/B-wKzMHH4A4/>

A (far better) video by Di Stoppard in NZ (for those in the Northern hemisphere, find a window pointing North- ish!) <https://tinyurl.com/uuulva6>

Amazing room projections by Abelardo Morell (The master at this sort of thing). <https://www.abelardomorell.net/project/camera-obscura/>

For more information on Pinhole Day and to upload your room obscura image taken on the 26th of April, visit www.pinholeday.org

More Science fun... for the whole family: The Royal Society of Biology has made available their Gopher Science Lab booklet for free! Link below:

https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/RSB_Gopher_Science_Lab_booklet.pdf

Wellbeing

Idea for the week



The wellbeing email is open for any questions or concerns parents/students may have. Feel free to get in touch if you need a little extra support. Wellbeing@wren.excalibur.org.uk

Kind regards,

Mr S Duffy
Acting Principal