

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

Dear Parent/Carers,

**Schooling Update:**

I hope that you have had a good week and that you are all keeping safe and well at home. As you will be aware from the news, there is yet no indication of when the lockdown will be lifted and when we will be able to get students back to school. I have been in contact with the other schools in our trust and I want to reassure you that we will be given plenty of notice about any return to school so that we can plan accordingly. I can also reassure you that no one will be returning to schools until it is safe for both students and staff to do so. As and when I know of any plans I will let you know. In the meantime, please bear with us as we continue to navigate these uncertain waters.

Our staff have continued to work hard to ensure that students have work set on Class Charts that is clear, accessible and manageable. There is an outline below (see Home Learning) of what has been set and what we are planning.

**Contact with students and households:**

By next Friday, we will have contacted every single student and their household to make sure that everyone is doing as well as they can be in these strange times. Many of our students and families have already been contacted and it has been great to hear from you all. The pastoral team and the form leaders are busy making these contacts and I am very grateful for this and all of the work that the Wren staff are undertaking.

We are now at a stage where students increasingly want to hear from us a little and this will be effective in maintaining engagement and motivation. Our teachers will try to ensure that student work is acknowledged via email by way of a “thank you” or “received” style message (praise points as appropriate). As we know, the key to success at the moment is communication.

**Online Student Bulletin:**

On Monday, a Wren School Online Student Bulletin will be launched. This will be sent to all students on Class Charts. The aim is to help support student’s workload and wellbeing as well as helping each student stay connected to The Wren School. There will be a weekly activity with some attached questions, which students will need to respond to their form leader. This will also help to improve weekly contact between students and staff.

**Supporting Key Workers:**

Children of key workers are welcome to attend school to work around parental shift patterns. We are open on weekdays to accommodate some students that we have invited in and for the children of key workers. If you are a key worker and you would like your child to attend school it is vital that you inform us, either by email or phone, letting us know which days that you would like your child to attend. This will help us plan for attendance and prepare better for each day.

**Home Learning:**

We are now two weeks into term 5. We are trying to ensure that students are encountering new learning and we are looking to use straightforward tests and quizzes so that we can monitor progress and students can see how they are doing too. We would like all students to use Wren School email addresses in communicating with teachers and school:

### How to access student school emails:

1. portal.office.com
2. Enter your email address. Your email address follows this format
3. w[the year in which you were year 7][first initial][surname]@wren.excalibur.org.uk.  
*For example, if Andy Example was in year 7 in 2017 his email would be:*  
[w2017aexample@wren.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:w2017aexample@wren.excalibur.org.uk)
4. Enter your password. This is the same password you use to log into the school system.
5. If you do not know your password contact [admin@wren.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:admin@wren.excalibur.org.uk).

**In year 7, year 8 or year 9** students have been set two weeks of work using Class Charts, with an increasing focus on new learning. They should have completed one self-feedback quiz and should have worked for no longer than 30-50 minutes for each lesson they would usually have in that day, or week.

**In year 10** students have been set two weeks of work, which is new learning and different in each week, through Class Charts and MS Teams (the work is the same on both). The presentations of work are narrated. They should have completed one self-feedback quiz and should have worked for no longer than 30-50 minutes for each lesson they would usually have in that day, or week. They should have had a clear opportunity to speak on MS Teams in the 'chat' function to their teacher once a week.

**In year 11** students have been set two weeks of work through Class Charts, consolidating Y11 learning and/or preparing for Y12 content. They should have completed one self-feedback quiz and should have worked for no longer than 30-50 minutes for each lesson they would usually have in that day, or week. They **might** have started the **optional** EtonX CV Writing course (see previous Bulletin).

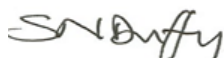
**Responses from staff.** During Term 5 students will be set **one** task which will be required (in all possible cases) to be submitted so that staff can mark the work and provide feedback, as they would in "normal" circumstances. In the meantime, if students submit work via email, or another source, staff will endeavour to acknowledge receipt of this and award praise points where appropriate.

### Wellbeing

After some initial teething problems, the wellbeing email is now up and running. If you or your child have any concerns regarding wellbeing or mental health, please get in touch. Please note that this email address is not for students to request passwords and work related queries. These should go to the subject leader or teacher who has set the work.  
[wellbeing@wren.excalibur.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@wren.excalibur.org.uk)

Wellbeing tip for the week – **Thank your anxiety!** Anxiety is your body's way of keeping you safe, it demonstrates that you care. So next time you feel anxious try saying to yourself..."Thank you for looking out for me. I know that you are here to make me aware of a situation and that is ok. It does not mean that I am going to come to any harm. Anxiety is my minds way of trying to protect me, so thank you"

Kind regards,



Mr S Duffy  
Acting Principal