

15th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Further Thanks: Can I take this chance to thank you for all that you do to help your children, our students, to continue learning. I am very grateful for all your efforts in maintaining some routine and structure to learning at home. I would also like to publically thank the teachers who have been working hard to set accessible, interesting and engaging work. Many of them have been working in ways that they have never done before. Please let me know if there are particular teachers or form leaders or other staff that you would like me to thank on your behalf. You might also be aware that Wednesday 20th May is National Thank a Teacher Day when we can come together to say Thank You to teachers, not only at The Wren School but across the country, who make a huge difference to young people's lives - not just now during these unprecedented times - but every day! Here is a link:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Thank-a-Teacher-Day-2020-Tool-Kit.pdf>

Guidance Update: Following the announcement earlier this week from the Government of the plan to partially re-open schools to some students we received further guidance recently from the Department for Education. We are taking time to read and digest this guidance to create our own plans. Once we have done this we will let parents know of any plans and we hope this will be by the end of next week (in the Parents Bulletin for Friday 22nd May). Over the coming days I will be working with staff, governors, and the Excalibur Academy Trust to discuss how we will start our phased return, starting with Year 10 students. We intend to make only small changes to the current position in order to further enhance our offer and ensure that year 10 students are not falling behind in their GCSEs. Please be patient as we work towards a sensible and workable plan that will enable staff and some students to return to school safely I understand many of you will be anxious about this next phase, together we can ensure we are making the best decisions for the children in our school.

In the meantime please look out for a [survey from The Wren School Governors about parent views around plans to re-open the school](#) and please [read the Government's guidance to parents and carers](#) via this link:

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

Reminder, if you are intending for your child to be in school under the current lockdown arrangement (child of a key worker, etc.) please can you ensure that you contact the school in advance to let us know. We cannot accommodate children we are not expecting.

May Half Term: In line with other schools in The Excalibur Academies Trust, [The Wren School will be closed to all students during the May half term break](#). No work will be set for students at home during this time, although some students may wish to continue with their previous work. Following a busy term for staff and students this will be a welcome opportunity to rest and recharge.

With half-term approaching, parents may be looking for the availability holiday activity in the area. The Family Information Service website contains a comprehensive list of holiday clubs in Reading and what their current situation is:

<https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/results.page?qt=holiday+clubs&term=&sorttype=relevance>

Contact with the school

As a school we want to stay in contact with all families in our Wren school Community to. We feel strongly that maintaining this contact is really important in working together, not only to look after everyone's wellbeing, but also to offer support with the home school learning programme. Staff at The Wren School have endeavoured to contact all students and/or parents/careers and will look forward to communicating with everyone in the coming weeks. Where telephone messages have been left and emails sent to families, please do respond, either on email or by phoning the school. We do want to hear from everyone and that everyone is doing as well as they can be in these difficult times. A weekly Student bulletin is sent out every week on Class Charts to all our students, this provides a great opportunity for our students to communicate on a weekly basis with their form leaders.

Home Learning: Literacy week comes to an end today; I hope your child has found this enjoyable and took the opportunity to "Write to Unite". May I remind you that entries should be submitted to Mr Elford: selford@wren.excalibur.org.uk.

Numeracy Week begins on Monday 18th May. The Maths Department have put together some maths/numeracy support resources for students who may find the current work set too challenging and require an alternative option. Students should aim complete this work for approximately 30minutes a day and it can replace the current maths work set via Class Charts. The work will be sent out via email to selected students who we believe will benefit most from this work. If you think that your son/daughter would also appreciate this work, please email gbover@wren.excalibur.org.uk or their maths teacher for a copy.

Year 11 Extending Learning: 10% of Y11 have begun their EtonX CV Writing Course online (<https://etonx.com>) which I wrote to you about on 24th April 2020. At the time of writing two students have completed the course and received their certificates, well done to Kaiya and Radek. May I take this opportunity to remind you what a great opportunity this is and how strongly I encourage each child in Y11 to grab this opportunity. The window to complete this course is live until 31st July 2020. If you have any questions about this please contact Mrs O'Brien bobrien@wren.excalibur.org.uk

MFL Escape Room: Finally, have you ever tried an escape room or fancy doing one? The MFL department offers you the opportunity to learn a new language in a fun and different way to pass the time while being at home!

We have received a letter from Helga, a little girl who lives in Germany and needs to solve a mystery that has occurred in Munich, her hometown...

Want to give it a go and solve the mystery with us? Click on the link to set off on an adventure. Enter the password **Wrenschoo120** to access the escape room:

<https://view.genial.ly/5e8f8713fba9d40d9e3b2822>

Totally optional and no prior knowledge required! Tschüss!

(email Miss Senero at msenero@wren.excalibur.org.uk to get your certificate of completion)

Wellbeing – Thought for the week

Promise me you'll always remember:
You're braver than you believe,
and stronger than you seem,
and smarter than you think.



Our wellbeing team continues to be available to support you and your child during this time. If you have any concerns please email Wellbeing@wren.excalibur.org.uk

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SNDuffy". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Mr S Duffy
Acting Principal