



Tomlinscote School

22nd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to outline the expectations that we have of our students as they temporarily have their learning based at home and I hope that this will help support you as well, before they start tomorrow. I appreciate that it will be a very testing time for parents with many juggling children's learning and their own work at the same time. My advice would be to develop some sort of structure with your son/daughter throughout the day and to ensure there are times for physical activity/wellbeing as well.

Tomlinscote students should endeavour, where possible, to follow these daily expectations: -

- each morning, **during registration time (9am)**, check their Tutor Group Google Classroom for any possible notices from their Form Tutors. **Use this time to message their Tutors** with any queries. We have asked all our Tutors to contact their Form and they will be available for any issues or concerns about work,
- **follow their normal school day timetable of lessons**, completing the work set during these specific times as much as this possible. However, the students should not worry if they cannot follow the timetable exactly period by period. Staff will be available to help and provide support during normal school hours,
- complete to the very best of their ability all set class activities,
- **message their teachers via Google Classroom** should they need any additional help with any set learning activities. This is very important because staff are available and over a prolonged period, understanding work will be more and more difficult,
- **submit any work as requested** by their teachers, and on time,
- complete any follow up DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) as requested by teaching staff – students are going to have to show independence,
- complete additional reading – fiction and/or non-fiction. **All Years 7 and 8 students are expected to complete 30 minutes' reading a day,**
- **Year 10 students should use any additional time to continue to create revision resources** based on all their GCSE learning to date. In their school planners are all the strategies that they have been taught including retrieval, Leitner flashcards/ Brainscape flashcards. Year 10 students should use this time to their advantage and aim to get ahead with their revision for their Year 11 exams. We expect all students to return to school having completed this learning and be fully prepared to continue their GCSE studies in earnest. **THIS IS A PRIORITY** and will help them prepare for their GCSEs and save a huge amount of time as well next year. Have you got a pack or two of blank flashcards?

- **Year 7 have their T5 Award booklet to start** – what a great opportunity to demonstrate an act of kindness or they can use this opportunity to perhaps learn a new skill? I sent a copy of this Award booklet to parents a few weeks ago and one to students as well,
- **complete some form of daily exercise** - e.g. Joe Wicks has a series of workouts that can be carried out at home, alternatively please direct them to follow the resources that the PE Department have placed onto their Google Classroom,
- **care for their own wellbeing** by looking at “The Daily Good” posts on their Tutor Group Google Classrooms.

I would expect parents to look at the work produced by their son/daughter every day, to ensure that enough is being produced and that it is of sufficient quality – as best you can!

I have sent a similar letter to our students via their email as well and said that parents/carers will be checking their work every night.

The school of course does not expect students to complete any learning during the Easter holidays, although we would always recommend the wellbeing benefits of reading a good book!

Tomlinscote staff are still here to support students in whatever way we can. We all look forward to fully welcoming back our students as soon as we are able to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Major
Principal