



# Tomlinscote School

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is time for another update as we begin to come to the end of Week 2 of home learning – although it seems longer!

## Key Workers

Our numbers in school remain around the 12 mark and are managed by support and teaching staff, who attend on a rota basis. This provision will continue during the Easter Holiday period from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April and from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. We are providing a free hot meal currently for students. Please use this provision only if there is no safe alternative at home and where it is necessary. The contact email is [keyworker@tomlinscoteschool.com](mailto:keyworker@tomlinscoteschool.com).

Our Safeguarding Team and Learning Support Department have been contacting individual students and families who may require further support.

## Trips and Work Experience

The Department for Education is currently advising against domestic trips (residential and non-residential) for children under 18 organised by educational settings. Consequently, the Swanage field trip is now cancelled. We will be refunding any payments as soon as possible.

I have also decided to cancel the Work Experience Week in June because we are unable to complete the necessary health and safety visits beforehand. We will be contacting as many companies as possible after Easter.

Refunds for Berlin (Year 10), France (Year 7), Germany (Year 7) and Bletchley Park (Years 9 &10) will also be made very soon. All these trip refunds are made possible, so promptly, due to the support of The Prospect Trust who feel that parents require the financial support at this critical time.

## Home Learning

I hope that the home learning is progressing as well as expected. We appreciate that it is difficult for everyone to juggle looking after children, ensuring that work is completed whilst at the same time, some families are experiencing very traumatic personal situations. We are extremely fortunate that all our students have an individual iPad and are linked up to Google Classroom in different classes. Most work should last for a 50 minutes' lesson slot, although this may take longer for some and others may complete it more quickly. If you need any extension tasks, please refer to the extra online links in the newsletter and previous updates for ideas. Alternatively, if your son/daughter is spending a long time on a task, please tell them to stop and move on to a different subject.

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The critical points are as follows:

- Parents to check the work of their son/daughter every day – link it to the 6 subject periods. We also have a daily mindfulness exercise for everyone.
- Parents to check that a task is uploaded to the subject teacher. This means that the teacher can provide feedback in places and also, that there is daily contact between the school and students.

Together we can make home learning work as effectively as possible. There will not be any work set during the Easter period as I want my staff to be with their family at this time and for your family to relax together too. The home learning work will start again on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

### **Online Safety**

With so many people using devices to access material online, I would like to bring your attention to the Government site - Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP). They run a programme called Thinkuknow – it is excellent with a range of online packs for parents and students. Please click on the links below to gain ideas and support:

[https://parentinfo.org/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK ONLINE SAFETY AT HOME 24 03 20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-03cb8440df-55401721](https://parentinfo.org/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK%20ONLINE%20SAFETY%20AT%20HOME%2024%2003%2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03cb8440df-55401721)

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/parents-helpsheets/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK ONLINE SAFETY AT HOME 24 03 20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-03cb8440df-55401721](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/parents-helpsheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK%20ONLINE%20SAFETY%20AT%20HOME%2024%2003%2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03cb8440df-55401721)

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/support-your-child-at-home?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=03cb8440df-](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/support-your-child-at-home?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03cb8440df-)

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK ONLINE SAFETY AT HOME 24 03 20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-03cb8440df-55401721](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK%20ONLINE%20SAFETY%20AT%20HOME%2024%2003%2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03cb8440df-55401721)

I would like to draw your attention to YouTube – this is a great resource for students and material can be viewed as it is an open website. However, they do need to be 13 to create an account and it may need monitoring.

### **Assessment and Reporting**

We have decided that there will not be any Year 10 exams after Easter as planned. It is hoped that they will be rescheduled later in the Summer Term, but it will depend upon when we come back to school.

We have decided that we will share Spring Term reports to Parents and Carers for Years 7, 8 and 9, as originally planned. In so many cases, a lot of work had already been completed in setting, conducting and marking assessments before we were forced to close. Therefore, the outcomes for Area of Focus 3 should be shared with families and the reports will only take into account work before the closure. The aim is to get the reports out to you as soon as we can after the Easter break. We will consider how to report on Year 10 progress.

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## **Year 7 – T5 Award**

Recently, I sent everyone in Year 7 a copy of the T5 Award booklet and criteria. This is something that all Year 7 students can do on an ongoing basis as it links to our 5 School Values. For example, there are so many opportunities to demonstrate acts of kindness or develop a new skill. The Progression part of the Award will be explained further after Easter, but it will require all Year 7 students to look at a topic that they are interested in. The students will research this topic in depth, produce a project and then present their project in any form they wish – more information straight after Easter!

A new skill suggestion - British Sign Language is offering enrolment on their 20-hour online course to learn BSL for as little as £3.00 to under 18s.

<https://british-sign.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360044794654>.

Proof of age is needed by uploading a photo of a young person's passport or birth certificate. You can find more details at <https://www.british-sign.co.uk/learn-online-british-signlanguage-course>. A certificate will be awarded at the end. The course is designed to be completed over 3 months and has the approval of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for use as the 3-month skill. British Sign Language can submit the report directly onto the portal.

## **Year 9 – Options**

Mr Taylor is currently contacting some Year 9 students where we have had to use a reserve choice when completing the options process. All students will have their option choices confirmed straight after Easter and we hope to start the GCSE subjects later in the Summer Term. The good news is that all students have gained their main or reserve option choices.

I am also informing Year 9 Parents that we will be running an extra -curricular class in September for students who wish to study Further Maths. It will be aimed at students who are keen to study maths at A Level and will be a separate Level 2 qualification. More information to follow next term.

## **Newsletter ideas**

If you can add anything to the newsletter it would be great – I want to keep the Tomlinscote Community together at this difficult time and any posts, photos (Year 9 & 10 students also welcome!), online ideas are appreciated. Please email photos and articles to [jcarpenter@tomlinscoteschool.com](mailto:jcarpenter@tomlinscoteschool.com)

I am aware of staff and parents who are directly affected by the coronavirus and the Tomlinscote Community are thinking of you at this difficult time.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Yours sincerely

Mr Major  
Principal