



Tomlinscote School

19th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and welcome to our very first remote summer term!

The school has been open for the past couple of weeks and supported a few families involved in frontline services. We have also been making our plastic visors for local hospitals, health centres, care homes and doctors' surgeries. A number have made their way to Nottingham Hospital, the Royal Marsden Hospital and the South Coast Ambulance service. The latest total is 1200 plastic face masks, 320 goggles and a few scrubs. A fantastic effort by our brilliant staff!

We have all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the chance to say what an amazing job you did supporting your child's learning before the break. I appreciate the pressures for parents juggling their own work as well as monitoring student work and some families are having a tough time. So many students worked extremely hard before Easter on a range of school tasks and this is not easy when there is less teacher interaction to help explain tasks. A normal school lesson has thousands of interactions in a 50-minute period and now students are working without those interactions.

However, I think it is really important that we all get back into a structured routine tomorrow after having had two weeks off. This is where I need your help to get the 'home learning' routines working again, to check the completed work at the end of the day and to ensure it is uploaded to my staff. I also believe it is important to keep up the students' work ethic before returning to school in the future.

Next week, I am suggesting the following for all students:

- All students will check in with their form tutor each morning on Google Classroom. Already, each form tutor sends a daily message to members of the form by 9am. **We would like every student to respond back in some way each morning** – it may be a simple smiley face emoji, hi miss/hi sir or perhaps asking a question etc.
- The home learning will continue to replicate the school day – 6 periods.
- The home learning set will provide work for the 50-minute lesson. If some students finish early, then that is fine. There may be an extension task or they could utilise the additional online links that I have shared over the past few weeks. If the student has worked hard for 50 minutes, then it is fine to stop at that point – even if the task has not been completed. All students work at different speeds and I expect them to produce work that is good for them as an individual.

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- **Please check your son/daughter's work at the end of the day and check that it has been uploaded to the member of staff.** Staff will set the work and mark uploaded work, but it is the student's responsibility to complete the work and parents are required to monitor this.
- **We will be looking at more provision using video and apps such as Explain Everything.** With each week into the lockdown, it will become more difficult to set tasks that students will be able to understand and learn from. More opportunities for staff to video parts of a lesson would help improve students' understanding and create fewer problems.

Free School Meals – We have provided payment for FSMs over Easter and are now following the government national voucher scheme. Information has been sent to eligible families but if there are any problems with this scheme, please contact Mr Daniel, adaniel@tomlinscoteschool.com.

Awarding GCSE Grades – On Friday, I wrote to Year 11 parents and students regarding the latest information from Ofqual. Please refer to this letter regarding how Year 11 students can bring their exercise books and materials down to the school on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th April, for consideration in the GCSE evidence gathering process.

<https://www.tomlinscoteschool.com/attachments/download.asp?file=2687&type=pdf>

Some students in Years 9 and 10 were due to sit GCSE examinations this summer. Ofqual are in a period of consultation about whether these students will be able to have a grade awarded this summer or whether they will have to sit the examination in 2021. When I have a definitive answer after the consultation, I will let you know. Please refer to this link for background information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofqual-seeks-views-on-gcse-and-a-level-grading-proposals-for-2020>

Year 10 - There is a lot of discussion within teaching unions about what the summer 2021 GCSEs will look like for current Year 10 students. Again, when I have information, I will let parents and students know. It is really important that Year 10 continue to complete their home learning and make revision cards/retrieval materials for work covered so far in Year 10. If we did return to school this term, then we may continue with Year 10 examinations as anticipated.

Year 9 - Mr Taylor has been completing the options process. We will inform all Year 9 students about their options choices for GCSE at the end of this week. It is intended that GCSE courses will start after the May half term – online or at school! However, some GCSE courses already have started such as Science and it is important that students stay on top of this work - we will be deciding this term which students will study Triple Science or Combined Science.

Year 8 - Students will continue to complete home learning tasks as normal.

Year 7 - Students will start their T5 Award next week – please see my email sent to Year 7 Parents and Carers on Friday.

(<https://www.tomlinscoteschool.com/attachments/download.asp?file=2684&type=pdf>)

I hope this provides another useful update for you as we start back with school activities tomorrow.

Your sincerely,

Mr Major
Principal