



Head Teacher – Mr M Loveridge

Dear parent / carer,

I hope that you continue to be in good health and that members of your extended family are also keeping safe.

As you are aware we have been carefully responding to the wider opening of schools by gradually increasing the number of students onsite; 30 students are now accessing onsite provision. We have been very careful to ensure that this has happened when it is safe to do so and only if we have staff available to support the provision. Priority has continued to be given to children of key workers as well as responding to level of vulnerability, need, and by invitation from senior staff. Unfortunately this does mean that many children will not have access to the school site until September; I am sure you appreciate that we must prioritise as all of our children fall into "vulnerable categories" as identified by central government. As we have stated, since lockdown began, if you are now in a position where you require onsite provision for your child then please do contact us via the usual channels. We will do our best to accommodate your request, however priority will continue to be given to key workers and those most in need.

Those at home continue to be ably supported by phone calls from tutors, TAs and senior staff, as well as regular emails and weekly work grids. Most tutors have now organised regular zoom meetings so that students can see and hear each other. We also support approximately 35 children and their families, every week by meeting them on their doorstep. Again, I ask that if you would like some additional contact with school, to inform the member of staff on one of your weekly phone calls.

We are starting to turn our attention to what school may look like in September. The absence of any significant guidance from central government is making this uncertain for most schools and families. I suspect that it will not be possible to return to 'normal' from September unless there is a significant shift in current government policy. However, we will be making every effort to maximise the number of children who will be coming to school for at least part of every week. I will share more information with you about this as guidance allows.

A team of staff are planning a 'saying goodbye day' for both Year 11 classes. Due to the overwhelming response students will be invited in for one day; Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July will be for Cedar class and Maple class and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July will be for Elm class. Students will start to receive transition work via their class tutor in preparation for these days. We are currently in communication with the Local Authority to provide transport on these days. It is likely that these days will be from 10am to 2pm but we will confirm this closer to the time. We will also be devoting the 26<sup>th</sup> June as a special day for memories and good wishes for Year 11 on the Facebook page. Please be reassured that we still fully intend to mark this important transition via a prom and a prize giving event in the autumn.

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Year 6 transition days are being planned for the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July. Miss Jones will be overseeing this and communicating with new parents via her weekly newsletter. Transition from one school year to the next is equally important for all of our students. Parent/carers and children will be informed about who tutors will be, for the next academic year, on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. This will be followed up with other supportive transition activities throughout that week.

*Please can I take this opportunity to remind parent/carers that the normal onsite provision will not be available during the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> July to accommodate these transition activities.*

As you will be aware extensive building work will be taking place on site over the summer holiday, which means that no onsite provision will be available over the summer. Due to the delay that Covid-19 has created in the construction industry we have been asked if we would be able to provide earlier access to the site to give contractors more chance of getting the work done by the beginning of the new academic year. *This means that unfortunately there will be no onsite support for students on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July; this means that the last day of onsite support this term will be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020.*

It has been great to see so many of you sharing the activities that students have been undertaking on Facebook. Please can I remind you that this platform is set aside to celebrate achievements; any general communication needs to come via the school office and not the Facebook page.

I was delighted to read recently that Free School Meals will continue to be made available throughout the summer holiday to those who are eligible. Our school business manager is working hard to ensure this runs as smoothly as possible.

Recent guidelines have recommended that taking extra Vitamin D could be helpful throughout lockdown. Our primary source of Vitamin D is sunlight and if you, or a member of your family, have been spending significant amounts of time indoors over the last three months then it may be helpful to take a vitamin D supplement.

The following link shares some useful information if this is something that may affect you.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-publishes-new-advice-on-vitamin-d>

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or require clarification please do not hesitate to get in touch via the usual channels.

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