



In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

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1st April 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of this school term, I wanted to get in touch with you all at this very unusual time. Although there are a small number of students and staff coming in each day, the vast majority of you are at home and getting used to a different way of being a student for the time being. I want to thank you for getting on with the work that your teachers have set, and also thank your parents for the support that they have given you. I also want to thank your teachers for adapting quickly to a very different way of working and communicating with you.

I know that there have been some difficulties with access to the online work (especially with MILK) and the message there is to be patient and to keep trying. Continuing with your schoolwork is really important and will ensure that when we are able to open school properly again, that you are not too far behind in your studies. I think that schoolwork is also helpful in keeping your mind active at this time and a good way of structuring your day when a lot of things you might normally do when you are away from school are not available to do. Over the two weeks of the Easter holidays, we will not be setting work.

At the point at which I am writing this letter, some of you would have been in one of this week's Easter communion services. At times of worry and uncertainty like this, our collective worship that Mrs Brown prepares and sends out is of real comfort to me. I think the verse that was part of last Friday's collective worship is very relevant to what we are going through: **'Anxious hearts are very heavy, but a word of encouragement does wonders!'** Proverbs 12:25. Did you take up the challenge of encouraging someone? If not, you can do it today! Just as I am communicating to you with this letter, make sure that you stay in touch with your friends and family that you can't see face-to-face.

I am told that we are due to get some more information this week about how grades will be awarded to our Year 11 and 13 students; we will contact you separately once we know more. We are continuing to set work for you because we want to make sure that you have finished your exam courses, we want you to be in a good position to sit any exams that are made available after the summer, and we think that maintaining the discipline of work will stand you in good stead for whatever your next step is.

Easter this year will be different for all of us, but I hope that you will use the holidays as families to support each other. Some of your parents will be much busier than normal with the demands of work, whilst others will be adjusting to being at home a lot more or dealing with worries about their jobs. Whatever your situation, I hope that you stay safe and positive, whilst sticking to the rules of social distancing.

Looking forward to seeing you all as soon as possible.

Jon Norden

