



27 March 2020
lrr/jcl/stj-covid-1927032020

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH - COVID-19

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you with a brief update from St John's after what has been quite an incredible week. Firstly, I would like to say how I hope that you are all keeping safe and well and managing to operate as best you can under the current guidance from GOVUK.

As you will no doubt be aware, St John's has remained open this week to support the work and efforts of key workers and to make sure that it provides a safe haven for vulnerable students. We have been able to enjoy some excellent weather with these students and I would like to thank all of the staff who have been involved in helping to keep the Academy running. We will continue this for as long as necessary and it will run through the Easter break too. Please do be aware that we can only offer this provision to those designated key workers, and for the vulnerable to minimize the risk of spreading the virus.

If your child is using our facilities next week, I regret to have to inform you that we are no longer able to provide food for our students. This is because Pabulum, our catering provider, has had to place all its staff into 'furlough' to enable it to access the Government compensation scheme. You will need to send your student into the Academy with your own food, and if you are entitled to Free School Meals, we will have already been in touch to help ensure provision.

I hope that you have had plenty of work to occupy your children. We are attempting to keep things loaded up to you via Show My Homework and I know that some teachers are using Microsoft TEAMS to pass on work and keep in touch. All of this will continue and there will be some further information to come in the very near future from Mr Nicholls and Mrs Haig-Williams, regarding how to prepare students as they turn their attention to their post-16 studies. This is a really difficult time for Year 11 students and many of you are asking how best to help them maintain their focus. Our advice for the moment is to continue with what we have provided, but to look out next week for the communication I have just referred to. Please be aware too that if you have students in Years 10 and 12, there will be some information coming regarding a series of exams that we are intending to run next term. This means that there is every need for them to keep their subject learning active over the weeks ahead.

Year 13 are also very much in our thoughts and I know that Mrs Haig-Williams has produced a very informative newsletter, which we hope will give them reassurance and help with their next steps.

If you have a child in Years 7-9, you can expect shortly to receive a letter from their respective Heads of Year by way of keeping in touch. There will be useful hints, tips and helpful information to ensure that students keep active and focused on their learning, as their time away from formal schooling increases.

As ever, the best way to get in touch with us is via email. Direct contact with staff can be the best way and there is always the COVID-19 email address: covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk which is set up and checked regularly.

I intend to write to you each week with further updates to compliment what you should be receiving from St John's. In the meantime, if you need anything please let us know and do everything you can to stay safe and well.

With very best wishes

Ian Tucker
Principal

