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3rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Easter update – Year 11

Thank you for supporting your child in the completion of their schoolwork, while school is closed; we appreciate how challenging this can be and that many of you are still very busy working in different circumstances to normal. Please continue to encourage and support your child in attempting all work set by their teachers, as it will help to ensure they are well prepared when normal schooling resumes.

Home learning and Easter break

Your child should consider the period from Monday 6th – Friday 17th April as their Easter holiday. This means a break from the 'school routine' they are currently in at home, as teachers will not be setting work in lieu of normal lessons. However, teachers may well have set 'homework' tasks, as they would following any lessons in the school year, so when they complete this work should be their choice. Whilst your child will not be set work by their teachers over Easter, if a deadline has not been missed, your child could use Easter to catch-up on any work missed. Additionally, if deadlines have been set after the Easter break students can complete this work during the holidays if they so wish.

You will find attached to this letter some further suggestions about how you can support your child with home learning, which can be used in conjunction with the protocols we have already issued. Most students have adapted well to working from home and are engaging regularly with staff but some will inevitably find this very new way of working difficult. Where this is the case, please encourage your child to contact their teacher(s) via email (email addresses can be found via Class Charts). Please be aware that, due to the need to have staff in school on a rota basis, not all staff will be taking their Easter holiday at the same time. If you send an email to a member of staff who is on holiday at a different time, you will receive a reply confirming this.

Our main priority is to set engaging work for students that will allow them to make progress; to make sure that students have plenty to keep them productively occupied. We do, however, acknowledge the challenges that can go alongside students learning at home; sharing electronic devices amongst families; fitting in supporting your children with their work alongside your own work; providing resources and managing deadlines. Therefore, please do contact your child's teacher, via email, or use admin@marywebbschool.com if you have any queries.

Provision for exam results

We are still awaiting confirmation on the procedures we are expected to follow to facilitate the awarding of GCSE grades. However, the Department for Education (DfE) has published a letter today from the Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon Gavin Williamson, to Sally Collier, Chief Regulator of Ofqual. Whilst this letter does not provide us with detail on the procedures we are expected to follow, it is clear the DfE does not want the grade based solely on teacher judgement and will consider other factors. It also states there will be an opportunity for students "to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity", if they feel their calculated grade does not reflect their ability. This means there is still meaningful work for your child to complete, which may influence their final GCSE grade.

Free School Meals

The parents of children who are entitled to and claim free school meals have been contacted and informed of the government's plan to continue this service. If you have not been contacted and believe you should have been, please contact Mr Salmon as soon as possible via email on psalmon@marywebbschool.com.

More details for parents/carers on the closure of educational settings can be found via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Yours sincerely

PJ Lowe-Werrell

Mr P J Lowe-Werrell
Headteacher

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