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24th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Summer term update - Year 7/8

I hope you and your families are all well and you were able enjoy some of the wonderful weather over the Easter break.

It has been a little over five weeks since your child was last in school and three weeks since I last wrote to you. During this time there have been a number of developments and updates in the Department for Education's (DfE) response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. As families, you have had to adapt and respond to some significant changes, most notably the home-based learning due to the national school closures. As a school community, we are all working together to support each other, appreciating how the situation will affect us all in many different ways.

Study/work/learning expectations

In these unprecedented times, structuring home-based learning remains a new challenge for us all. We hope your child has been able to access the resources and tasks provided with relative ease, but understand a few of you had some initial issues or difficulties. Those technical problems we were made aware of have been resolved. If you or your child are still experiencing any problems or barriers preventing the completion of any work set, please contact us as soon as possible.

Structuring your child's day may support their studies. Working from the timetable in your child's planner may help, as will looking at the due dates for the tasks set. Time allocated to tasks should be seen as a guide – some tasks may be completed in less time, if your child grasps the concepts quickly, other tasks may take a bit longer, due to your child finding them more challenging. It's important to remember any time spent on learning activities is time well spent.

Rest breaks are important and will help your child remain in their routine. It will also help the organisation of your time as a family and hopefully prevent your child (and you) feeling overwhelmed with the work and tasks that have been set.

Our daily lives will return to something more closely resembling normal. We want our children to thrive when this time comes, as opposed to struggling to bridge knowledge gaps and remembering how to study and acquire knowledge and skills. Continuing with learning, academic and practical, will ensure they are well-prepared for the time the coronavirus (COVID-19) 'lockdown' ends.

Mental health, well-being and other support

As a school, we are monitoring the contact we are having with all our students, this is so we can ensure we have regular communication with your child and all children in our care. This is often in the form of short 'check-ins' with form tutors, but also via subject teachers and work submitted by your child. If you have any worries or concerns about your child, or one of their friends, a good place to go for some initial help and support is your child's form tutor. We have also updated our website, where you will find a range of support options from organisations which specialise in supporting children with their mental health: <https://www.marywebbschool.com/mental-health/>.

If you have serious concerns about the welfare of your child or child known to you, we would always advise you contact the Shropshire Safeguarding team on: 03456789021, as well as contacting our safeguarding team, via email, at: safeguarding@marywebbschool.com.

We have been contacted by organisations in our local community to publicise the support they can offer to families during these challenging times. You will find attached a leaflet from them.

Thank you for all the support you continue to give the school community. It is a challenging time for us all, but through our work together, we can ensure our children receive the support they need. On behalf of the whole school community, I wish you all well and I hope you and your families continue to remain safe.

Kind regards,

PJ Lowe-Werrell

Mr P J Lowe-Werrell
Headteacher

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