

23 April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Coronavirus – Summer Term – Looking Forward

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and welcome to our very first remote summer term!

I am writing to offer some words of encouragement at this uncertain time, to our Rooks Heath families. We now know that schools will continue to be closed at least for the following three weeks. Government guidance to schools about working to the social distancing protocols still remain in place and whilst we miss having the students in school, we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. The College will be open with the same arrangements we had prior to the Easter holiday period.

We hope you have managed to make the most of the Easter break and in particular the warm sunny days we have been lucky to see. It may seem that your children have been out of school for a long time, but we have heard some lovely stories of what students staying indoors has brought, including helping parents, gaining life skills, looking after the environment and encouraging people to be kind.

We hope that you have been able to spend time together on activities within your homes as well as take up the suggested fun and learning activities we have shared. This could be one interpretation of our mission statement '*opportunity through learning*'.

We have listened to your voice in response to our online learning survey and will amend our approach to setting tasks. Thank you to all the parents / carers who took the time to fill this in.

I wanted to also share the good news that we have launched our digital assemblies and will continue to share these over the coming weeks. Our Virtual Assembly #1 was launched before the Easter break and we now have [Virtual Assembly #2](#). This is a personal message from me to all of you. I hope you will take the time to sit and watch this with your children.

A key thought for me now, is that we can all spend some time really thinking about how we will make the most of school life once we all return. We have a real opportunity to make our school life even better once we return using the lessons and skills we can gain from this time away and also considering how we can appreciate life more as a result of having faced this restrictive and concerning time.

In spite of the lockdown, the staff, many of whom will also have their own families to look after at home, continue to work hard to make Rooks Heath College provision first class. Your children remain our priority so please let them know that we always think about them as we plan and work remotely, even though we may not be seeing them all in the College every day for a while.

During this period of disruption, we recognise that communication is very important. It is also the case that information and advice is changing regularly. We ask for your patience and understanding during this extraordinary period. We are always available via the Canvas email system and our Contact Us email which many of you have taken advantage of.

A reminder that there is a letter written to parents about the arrangements for examination stage students which can be found here: [Letter: Coronavirus – Awarding of Grades for GCSE, AS and A levels](#). We will now take the time, to fully prepare our system and procedures for submitting provisional grades along with the required evidence to the exam boards. We ask that you do not contact the College to discuss this. You may find all updates at the following location online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

All DFE information for parents was launched on the 19th April and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19> and here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Please continue to keep an eye out for further communication. All previous letters with key information are available on our website and can be found if you click here: [Letters](#).

We are aware that some of our families may know of individuals who have suffered from the effects of the Coronavirus and may even be directly affected. If this is you, I hope the individuals are on the road to recovery. If the circumstances have unfortunately led to a bereavement, I sincerely hope you are able to find some comfort at this time.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all good health during this very unusual period of our lives. Please stay home and stay safe.

I really look forward to when we will resume our 'normal' way of working and studying together, when the time comes. Who knows, our new 'normal' may even be better than what has been before.

Yours sincerely



Miriam Manderson
Headteacher