

2nd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I do hope you and your family are keeping safe and well during these uncertain and unusual times.

During the first two weeks of school closure, we have been doing our best to keep the students busy with work that is necessary for their courses and to try and keep them 'on track' with the important habit of regular study. It is new to us all, and for the most part, staff are very pleased with the levels of engagement that have been observed. We are operating a special Rewards Scheme during this time and so far nearly 200 students have received a 'Virtual Certificate' and 10 Achievement Points to accompany it, in recognition of their online learning. Thank you for encouraging your child to complete all their work to the best of their ability, in sometimes difficult circumstances.

Review

Now that we have a system in place for setting work (Google Classroom) we are in a position where we would like to review its effectiveness and I am writing to ask for your feedback on how you feel it is working and how it could be improved. The students will also be contacted for their feedback. Can you please ask your child/children to look out for an email from me asking for feedback about their online learning experience?

We are also asking similar questions of staff and we will use the responses from all three groups to help us plan our approach after Easter. It seems likely that the national school closure will continue into the Summer Term, so it is important that we reflect on our experience to date and adapt and improve, if necessary. There are key questions about work frequency, volume and type to consider as we move forward.

I would be very grateful therefore if you could use the link below to complete the questions regarding Google Classroom. Please note these are to be answered from your point of view as a parent. If you have more than one child, you are very welcome to complete more than one form. We will ask the students directly for their view. We know they may be different!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeANqzeFI-PQGDu9Eirs9kTInt2ctBKcR_X6VfaMAVsPyuTq/viewform

Thank you for your support with this and for everything you are doing to help your child with their studies at home. We know that with many parents now working from home, there is a lot of sharing of family computer devices which makes access difficult at times. We are also aware that some older children are fulfilling vital duties in caring for younger siblings during the course of the week. We are mindful that a great many of our staff are trying to combine providing work from home with looking after their own children.

These are different times and we are having to teach and learn differently. However, we will reflect and are committed to doing this in the very best way that we can.

Yours sincerely

Mark Cavill
Vice Principal