



1 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you as students have settled into the second week of Term 5 and the realities and rhythm of learning remotely.

For all of us these circumstances bring challenge yet equally at times unexpected positives. We have included here some guidance on making the best of home learning and we also have some fantastic examples of our students rising to the situation, contributing to the wider need.

We would like to remind parents of the survey on home learning which we would like as many as possible to complete. Even if absolutely everything is positive for you it is useful for us to know what is working well and why.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11JjwUeBi5BBzuX56-KMq3m1ftiEP-FxcLkN5HbjKK_A/edit

So far parents are valuing:

- a) Clear, concise instructions and expectations and an example to work from.
- b) Links to videos explaining work.
- c) Regular communication with teachers.
- d) Online video lessons (where available), online tests/questions which give instant answers.
- e) Appreciation for the regular pastoral contact which is reassuring and welcome.

We can offer the following tips to overcome some reported issues:

1. Stick to a routine each day, get up and start work at the same time as normal, take breaks and finish no later than the end of the school day. Keep balance in life with other activities.
2. Check the details of each work task. What might first seem like a lot of work often clearly states work to be broken down over a series of lessons.
3. Contact the subject teacher, ideally through Firefly if anything is not clear or not understood. Details of staff including Subject Leaders if necessary are on the website.
4. Firefly filters and settings are worth checking to make sure old tasks are archived and it's easier to organise and prioritise, potentially avoiding long lists of old



tasks. There are easy to use videos on how to do this on the firefly but if you can't manage this please do let us know and we can do it remotely.

<http://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?p=1989217>

5. Let the teacher and/or Head of Year/pastoral team know if you have concerns about how your son/daughter is coping from a well-being perspective. We are never far away and can usually signpost or provide support and solutions.

We track and log the work completed by students each week, we will contact you if there is a problem so as a parent you do not need to overly worry about staying on top of things. Please just keep the young person in a routine and let them communicate with teachers as a first instance over Firefly. The only additional advice we would add is for them to be very specific about what it is they don't understand and check both Firefly and email daily for replies and support.

Further to this point and point 3 above, we would also encourage parents to occasionally check the comments that are flowing between students and teachers in Firefly, this is where you can see the feedback and response to questions that is reassuring and rewarding. If you feel this is not happening, then contact the subject teacher or Curriculum Leader directly.

For Year 11 and Year 13 there will be a launch of transition materials on Monday 4 May which will provide activities, reading and research regardless of whether they are securing 6th Form places, vocational college places or as yet undecided; there will hopefully be something for everyone. Once the consultation from Ofqual and decisions about Year 10 are finalised we will also confirm arrangements for those subjects affected.

Finally, we have been thrilled to see students who are going above and beyond at this time and seem to have found a purpose beyond themselves. Whether making masks, crocheting hearts, organising sponsored keepie uppies or other such activities, a number of our students are finding a call to action that we see as rooted in their integrity and consideration. Please do keep letting us know about these as we love to share them with our wider community via Twitter (@Heathfield_cc).

However, so many more are doing all that could be asked of them. They are working hard to keep up with their learning, being kind, considerate and calm. We wouldn't ask more than that. Not everyone is in the position to do extra and nobody should feel they have to. Staying safe and staying on top of your learning is a magnificent contribution, it is what we know our students are doing. We are very proud of them all.

Stay safe, stay healthy and if in doubt stay in touch.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher