

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to what is our first virtual start to a term. We hope that you and your family are safe and well and that you have had a peaceful break over Easter. This was not the start to the summer term we all envisaged back in September and we are looking forward to returning to 'normality' when it is safe to do so.

We are very conscious that working online is challenging for everybody, particularly for our pupils who are away from their friends and teachers. As staff, we are working extremely hard to protect as much learning as possible by setting more of a variety of tasks on our VLE. This is something we are officially launching on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, although your child may have noticed a difference already in what has been set since we started back after Easter.

There are many unknowns about when and how schools will re-open; however, please be assured that we are planning for a range of eventualities. Our main priority is to support the wellbeing of our pupils. Every child should have received a welfare call by now from their Head of Year to check up on how they are and how they are coping with the challenges of working from home. We are looking into other ways of keeping in touch with pupils.

As a school, we have tried very hard to balance the volume and nature of the work being set and are mindful of the stresses this can place on families. It is important that pupils keep up with the work that is set on the VLE, as it will be very difficult to fill these gaps in knowledge once we eventually return to school. Ideas are being discussed for additional learning to take place outside of the school day but the best thing that parents/carers and pupils can do is to keep on top of the lessons being sent out daily.

Our staff are doing everything they can to keep pupils engaged with subjects and to maintain the high standards of teaching that is possible during these uncertain times. What our staff are unable to do is to physically teach pupils and chase up incomplete work. We appreciate that the challenge of directly ensuring, motivating and challenging children to learn and complete work has fallen to parents and carers. Every pupil's routine of work will be different and must be based upon what works for them and their families. This is one of the reasons why every piece of work has a deadline of at least two weeks after it is set. Pupils will continue to be set work, but please remember, it will not be the same as if they were in school. We are not expecting our pupils to sit at a laptop or working at a table for five hours a day, based upon what their timetable says. Again, this is where parents/carers have to establish routines for each day and build in breaks and exercise for their child.

As stated earlier, we have taken the decision to make our lessons more varied in terms of what is expected of pupils and the types of tasks set for them. This will begin on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April and attached is what you can expect for every subject for this half term. We have also had some fantastic feedback from parents during the closure and we have put together some 'frequently asked questions' along with responses to them. We are aware that creating a learning environment at home is difficult and, at times, very stressful so we have put together a 'top tips for home schooling' document to go with this letter.

We also know that you are aware of how much emphasis is placed on reading at Hollingworth and we know the massive benefits it gives our pupils in terms of supporting their mental health and expanding their knowledge. Therefore, included with this letter is information regarding our 'Reading Wind Down Programme'. All audiobooks are available on Youtube, but if your child would like to get hold of their own copy, then that would support them further.

A lot of our communications during the closure have been on our Facebook and Twitter pages so please join these forums as they do allow for you to keep up to date and keep in touch with the school.

I hope that you and your family remain safe and well.

Yours faithfully

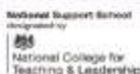


Mr D Randle  
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RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



RESILIENCE



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