



SMA

Friday, 03 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy. I send my very best wishes to all those in our community who are unwell or self-isolating. This is a very difficult and unsettling time for everyone and I am grateful for all the support being offered from within the school community. Thank you for supporting the Government's #stayathome #savelives.

A particular thank you to all of our parents who are key workers, especially those working for the NHS and those on the front line every day saving lives. So you are aware, we have donated all the school's personal protective equipment to the NHS.

It is unprecedented that schools would be closed, especially with no fixed date for when they will reopen. However, we will continue to follow the advice of the government and Public Health England as our families' health is the most important consideration at this time. We must prepare that this is now moving into the longer term period. If you are a key worker, our emergency school provision continues for those that have no safe alternative. If you would like to use this, please email me directly at sma@boswells-school.com. The provision will stay open over the Easter holidays including Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday. If your child has already accessed the provision in the past two weeks, there is no need to inform us if your child will be attending again next week. A big thank you to the staff that come into school to oversee this provision.

If your child was eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) then you should already have received a link to Sainsbury's vouchers for this initial 4-week period. The government has just announced its voucher scheme which will give you more access to other shopping outlets. You should expect the school to be in contact within the next 2 weeks.

We have received clarification this morning from Ofqual around how the grading for Year 11s and Year 13s are to be evaluated. Ofqual have provided a letter for students, a copy of which can be found [here](#). As the guidance states, please can I ask that you or your child do not contact the school or their teacher regarding their grade(s). We will not be able to discuss this. We have made conditional Sixth Form offers this week to those that have applied to The Boswells Sixth Form.

I know many students are anxious but please do try and remember that this affects every 16 and 18-year-old across the nation and potentially the world. They cannot let this negatively affect a whole generation. As a school, we will do our very best to ensure that the students are awarded what they deserve and provide them with the stepping stone to the next stage in their education/career. Our staff are as disappointed as the students at this abrupt end to their studies given all the hard work and effort put in to reach that point. We still also wait to hear from UCAS and the universities and again, we will share any information as soon as we have it.

School, in whatever form will continue and I am delighted that my staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that there is work being set and communicated on a weekly basis. I am also grateful for the parental commitment from home. However, I totally recognise that this is not without its issues and I think that we all need to catch our breath as we come into the Easter school holidays. As I mentioned last week, I believe that this is a time for families, teachers and students to regroup and refresh and my teachers will not be setting 'lessons' during this period. I would suggest that we all try and take some positives from the situation, enjoy family time, encourage students to take up a hobby, focus on their physical fitness or enjoy reading a book. There may be a few pointers made by teachers on what students could be doing over the Easter holidays on Show my Homework, including an Easter Challenge. If parents are stuck for things for their children to do, please refer to our website <https://www.boswells-school.com/closure-home-learning/closure-home-learning.htm>. This also includes a number of activities which students and adults can engage with to help their physical and mental well-being. There are also a number of organisations offering superb support this on the page below: <https://www.boswells-school.com/safeguarding.htm>.

As I look longer term, I believe that we want our students to be prepared to return to full time school healthy, both physically and mentally, capable of independent study, having learnt some new skills and having been inspired to learn something that will support their future study and life.

School leaders recognise that we cannot deliver the national curriculum in full, to every student, at their differentiated level by remote learning in the long term. We are now in the process of putting together a plan of how school can operate in the longer term from home. In the past week or so, our Year 11 students have been able to access transition work, if they intend to continue on to A-levels next year. Equally though, we are looking at what is best for students in every year group. We appreciate it is a challenge and not ideal for students to be sitting in front of a computer screen for 5 or 6 hours a day, hence why we have looked to include more physical or creative elements to the tasks being set. To support you and your children at home, we would appreciate any feedback you may have on the work set. If you have a few minutes, we would be grateful if you could complete this short questionnaire which will help us to know what is working, and what may not be working as well: <https://bit.ly/39H12ss>.

We are acutely aware that during this unprecedented time that children are likely to be spending more time on various forms of social media. We advise you to regularly check the sites your child is viewing and have conversations with them about internet safety. There is advice on the school website in relation to this— click on this link to take you directly to it:

<https://www.boswells-school.com/parents/online-safety.htm>

In addition there are some excellent ideas from The Two Johns (experts on online safety and child exploitation) on this link: <https://esafetytraining.org/school-closure>

When we return to school, I can assure you that we will endeavour to ensure that they all pick up from where they were; we just need in this period to retain a good routine, interest in learning but more importantly positive mental and physical health.

If during this time your child is clearing out of their bedroom and find any uniform, PE kit or books they no longer require please keep hold of them and when the school is open again hand them in at the front office. We can sell the uniform to raise funds for FOBS, which will go to projects to enhance our students' school experience, and we can place the books in the school library.

Please click [here](#) to read the CLP Parent and Carers Newsletter. This document was collated before schools were informed to closed until further notice and therefore some dates are not applicable now. I hope you enjoy reading about the good work taking place across our trust.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. If you need to contact us, please do so through our email account admin@boswells-school.com.

Yours sincerely,



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