



Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you that you and your sons and daughters are doing as well as you all can under these challenging circumstances. Each day brings something new to reflect upon and the decisions we make one day seem to rapidly change the next.

However, our job as a school is to navigate this as best we can and I am sure I can rely on your support and the commitment of our students to ensure that we keep moving forward.

In terms of the online learning, the early consensus seems to be that it is working well. That said there are some issues arising which we are addressing as quickly as we can.

An understandable concern, however, comes from the parents and carers of GCSE students. After all the hard work students have put in we all share the sense that the “rug has been pulled” from under them. However, at this time we have very little guidance from the exam boards other than that we will be receiving guidance. I want to assure you that as soon as we have an idea about the process we will inform you. In the meantime, I have every confidence that stringent efforts will be put in place to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by this pandemic. **However, Mr Powell is writing to Y11 parents today detailing what we do know.**

In terms of continuity of learning, it is vital that students keep up with their learning and study habits. Not having a test or an exam on the horizon doesn’t mean that learning isn’t valuable and essential to developing a student’s deeper and wider understanding and knowledge. The worst that could happen over the coming weeks is that students develop gaps in their learning that widen. This is as applicable to a Y7 student as it is to a Y11 student. For example, I didn’t take History beyond the equivalent of GCSE, but I am forever drawing upon the knowledge I acquired over the full exam course I studied.

Also, in terms of communication it is really important that it is “fit for purpose” otherwise key messages can be lost through communication overload. Therefore, in the short term I will be limiting communication to what is essential only. Any updates will be available on the website at <https://bridgewaterhigh.org/coronavirus/>. That said, I will be asking Mr Eden to post on the website a Frequently Asked Question sheet about online learning tomorrow.

Finally, please remember that any parent or student with a welfare concern can contact us in confidence at welfare@bridgewaterhigh.com. In the meantime, I hope you all stay fit and well.

Regards

Tim Long, Principal



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