



Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you, your families and your friends are as well as can be and I would like to thank you for the support you have shown this week. The key purpose of this letter is to address issues with regard to our online learning platform, Show My Homework. This is a radically different way of learning when it is the vehicle for delivering the whole curriculum as opposed to adding to elements of school-based teaching and we are learning daily about its benefits and constraints. As a reminder, all online learning guidance can be found at <https://bridgewaterhigh.org/coronavirus/>

What have we learned so far?

- Show My Homework is proving to be a robust and reliable platform for colleagues to set work and for students to continue with their learning
- Show my Homework allows us to track systematically the login activities of students whilst also allowing us to monitor the quality and frequency of work set by colleagues
- Show my Homework has the potential moving forward to provide a more systematic platform for class feedback and assessments
- Show my Homework provides opportunities to link into other platforms such a Youtube and Zoom

Our strategy between now and the end of next week is to embed within Show My Homework the consistency of work set by teachers and to ensure all students are capable of accessing it.

What do we need to do going forward next term that is sustainable for students and families?

- We need to establish a reasonable expectation of what feedback students can expect to receive
- We need to provide guidance about what assessments we are going to schedule and how they will be accessed
- We need to increase levels of interactivity in safe, secure and sustainable ways

With these in mind, we are trialling with certain groups of students a more enhanced curriculum delivery model next week. We will capture their feedback and use it to help develop an even a richer form of online delivery next term.

What are the challenges at the moment?

- There's an avalanche of "good ideas" out there which do offer transformational teaching and learning opportunities. Our job is to sift through these and identify best practice so that the online environment we create is not just fit for purpose for tomorrow, but for the months to come
- How can we best manage the idea of "working from home"? Trying to work at home whilst juggling child care commitments, for example, is not without its issues for us all and sadly over the next few months the additional pressures we will all have to manage as well will only to add to this balancing act
- Managing expectations. As a teacher, the bulk of any feedback is given through your classroom interaction. You can clarify a misconception or question for a class through one comment; doing this individually and online for a class becomes more problematic which is why our next big push is going to be around clarifying what we understand as "providing regular and relevant feedback". Please be under no illusion this is something we are committed to and students and parents have a right to expect. But it must be manageable and fit for purpose.
- Responding to opportunities. We are actively encouraging teachers and students to innovate whilst at the same time ensuring there are levels of consistency for all
- Responding to one of the biggest "elephants in the room" namely what we do about GCSEs, something we are awaiting guidance on and which Mr Powell is overseeing
- Meeting welfare needs. Mrs Hatton is spearheading an extensive network of pastoral support and care so if there are any wider welfare concerns please email these to welfare@bridgewaterhigh.com.

In the midst of all this hard work please know that we miss your sons and daughters, we miss our students who make Bridgewater High the special place it is. Finally, stay safe and thanks for your ongoing support.

Regards

Tim Long, Principal