



Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

To begin with I trust that you are all fit and well. Next, I would like to thank those of you who have been involved in the Bridgewater 2.6 Challenge. There has been an amazing response with some fantastic challenges and most importantly, lots of money raised for charity. There is still time to take part and information continues to be shared with our pupils through Show My Homework, assemblies and on the school twitter feed @Bridgewater_PD and @bridgewaterhs.

When I wrote to you before Easter I identified a number of priorities which I would like to update you on. They were:

- **continuing to safeguard all our students especially the most vulnerable**

On a weekly or daily basis, Pastoral Staff are contacting over 120 families. All parents/carers should be aware that if they have any concerns regarding their child's welfare they can email their Pastoral Manager directly or use, the dedicated email address of welfare@bridgewaterhigh.com

- **evolving the quality of our online learning whilst leading the school in a virtual environment**

We are increasing the number of interactive lessons every day via different platforms. We are also piloting Microsoft Teams to improve feedback. We are reviewing the approach to Rewards and looking to roll out a programme of "Keeping in Touch" via tutors and teachers which we will provide guidance on next week

- **responding to Ofqual's advice for GCSEs**

We are in-line with deadlines and have agreed a Trust wide approach to ensure consistency and transparency and are confident that this will be a fair process

- **establishing a position on assessment for all year groups that is fit for purpose**

Mr Powell has been co-leading work across the school and the Trust to draft methods of assessment that are fit for purpose in an on-line environment; he will update you next week

- **planning transition for both KS2/3 and KS4/5, potentially using "bridging units"**

Mrs Hatton and Mrs Hindle have already written to all our new Y7 to start gathering information regarding induction. Meanwhile the Trust-wide hubs for transition are working hard to identify strategies for induction and transition which can be adapted from the real world to the virtual world depending on lockdown developments

- **planning strategies for Y10 in the medium and long term to address any gaps in learning**

Mr Powell and a Trust wide group of school leaders are scrutinising Ofqual announcements to see what the potential impact of the lockdown might be. We are prioritising the teaching and feedback for Y10.

- **providing Careers Education, Advice and Information online to Y11 in particular**

Identified Y10 & 11 pupils are receiving careers guidance interviews by phone; general careers information is regularly posted on the SMHW platform. A virtual careers day will take place on Wednesday 3rd June with details to follow

- **addressing potential inequalities that may emerge through any "digital divide"**

Where we have identified digital needs, we have provided additional resources sometimes in the form of laptops.

This week we have also conducted two randomised surveys with parents and students which we are in the process of collating. We will be writing to you next week to share the outcomes of these and importantly indicate what our next steps will be. Finally, I fully appreciate the frustration many of us feel in the absence of any clear road map going forward on a number of levels. What I want to assure you however, is that we are constantly reviewing our actions so that we can provide the best for our students for the "here and now" whilst also scanning the horizon so that when we do return, we will be able to hit the ground running. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Regards,

Tim Long, Principal