

Principal: Emma Robins



27 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

At the end of our first week of closure I wanted to update you about a few things. First of all, I hope you are all keeping safe and well and managing in these very strange times. We are living in a period of uncertainty which presents many challenges. As a school, we are working hard to try to offer some continuity in difficult times.

We have set up a huge amount of on line learning for all year groups. It can be accessed through our web site where we have a 'work from home' tab. All students can access SAM Learning and Hegarty Maths where tasks have been set for them. Please encourage your child to access this learning and to complete tasks relevant to their year group. Should you have any questions at all about any subject please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification. You can find staff emails on the web site or email admin@grahamschool.org and we will respond to your query. If you do not have access to the internet we can provide a paper based work pack – again, contact us at school and we will sort that out for you.

In addition to the resources we have set up there are many on line suggestions for home based learning. Some of these will offer your child creative opportunities such as *PE with Joe* - <https://www.thebodycoach.com/blog/pe-with-joe-1254.html> or access to free books through *audible* - <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>. There are also some really good Ted talks which some children might enjoy - https://www.ted.com/playlists/86/talks_to_watch_with_kids.

Spending time relaxing is also really important and taking daily exercise should be a part of daily routine. Please make sure your children keep in touch with their friends where possible remembering the government guidelines about social distancing. Technology really helps out with this – *Zoom*, *Google Hangout* and *House Party* are all great ways to stay in touch. Daily communication is important for all of us!

Whilst school has now been closed for a week, we have been welcoming a small number of children of key workers each day. These children have completed a range of activities working with different teachers and support staff each day. We are very proud of what they have done and look forward to continuing to work with them and others in the coming weeks.

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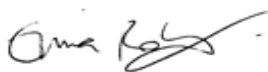
We have been working hard to find a solution for our families who receive Free School Meals. We understand that the government is about to announce a voucher scheme to support children in families who would normally get a free school meal. As soon as we have more detailed information we will contact you directly. We are expecting to have something in place next week. If, as a result of changes to your work and / or financial situation during this crisis, you become eligible for free school meals we will ensure you are included in any support programme that is in place. Please contact us at school if you have any queries using the admin@grahamschool.org email.

Those of you with children in Y11 will have many questions about GCSE grades and how they are to be awarded. Again, we are waiting for full details from the government but our understanding remains that grades will be awarded to ensure Y11 students can progress to college, apprenticeship or employment. There should be more details next week - https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-update-on-2020-exams?utm_source=91e25046-3bdd-4097-ac38-f3c99fec0735&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate. Please rest assured we are working very hard to ensure that, all Y11 students receive the grades they deserve. We will keep you posted.

Finally, these are difficult times and some of your children may be struggling to cope. Should they need any additional support please consider these websites which are excellent: <https://www.thegoto.org.uk/> and <https://www.kooth.com/> . Once again, if you need any additional support please do hesitate to contact us at school.

I will write to you each week with an update from school. Thank you for your continued support and wishing you all the very best at this difficult time.

Keep safe and look after each other,



Emma Robins
Principal | Graham School