

17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**COVID19 – Parent Update 17.04.2020**

As you will no doubt know from yesterday's Downing Street press conference, the UK will remain on lockdown for a further period of at least three weeks. Schools will, therefore, remain open only for children of critical workers and children who are vulnerable until further notice. Social distancing guidelines will also remain in force in school. **Please remember that the school is only open for those children who absolutely need to attend. If your child can safely remain at home, they should do so, and if your child has, or develops, a continuous cough or a temperature, you must ensure that they do not attend school.** Please also remember to inform us if your circumstances change and you either now need, or no longer need, your child to be in school, by contacting Mrs Alison Moxey on [amoxey@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:amoxey@iscaexeter.co.uk).

This week also saw the issue of new guidance from Ofqual regarding Centre Assessed Grades for our Year 11 students. More information on this, and transition to Post-16 education, was sent to Year 11 parents earlier this week.

**Home Learning**

Although these are unusual times to which we are all needing to adjust, it is important that students do not allow too much time to pass before re-engaging with their school work if they have not already done so. Please encourage them to join the newly set up teacher classrooms on Google Classroom to access the learning resources made available in all their subjects. We appreciate that some families do not have access to electronic devices and/or the internet and if you have not already been in touch to inform us of this, please do so as soon as possible by emailing [adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk) so that we can provide work in printed form. Accessing the work on-line, if you are able to, is the most effective way for your children to benefit from the resources as it enables them to receive feedback on their work, to access differentiated learning material and to take automated tests which will allow them, and their teachers, to gauge their progress. **If you are experiencing technical difficulties logging in, please contact your child's teacher or tutor for assistance in the first instance before requesting that printed work is posted to you.**

For these and any other queries regarding learning resources, please do not hesitate to contact our team. Our staff email addresses can be found on our website on the link: [Staff List](#)

Most of our students have engaged remarkably well with remote learning and I have been delighted to read reports from teachers and tutors about the excellent work being completed from home. Many thanks to all of you for supporting your children with their learning while no doubt juggling your own work and family commitments. Mrs Goode is working on a virtual Hot Chocolate Friday on the school's social media pages to continue to reward those students each week who have stood out through the quality of their work or their positive attitude.

## **Free School Meals**

A Groupcall message was sent to families eligible for free school meals at the start of this week to confirm that all applications have been uploaded to the government website for FSM vouchers. However, as this is a national portal and the number of applications has been unprecedented, a delay is to be expected in vouchers being issued this week. This is regrettably out of our control but we are doing everything we can to ensure the vouchers are received.

If your family's circumstances have changed as a result of being furloughed and you are facing financial difficulty and need to apply for your child to receive free school meals, please register on Devon County Council's Citizens Portal using the following link (there is a designated button for register for FSMs):

[Devon CC Portal](#)

Any general queries regarding free school meals can be sent to us at: [fsm@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:fsm@iscaexeter.co.uk).

## **Year 8 Options**

A final reminder please to ensure that all Year 8 students have confirmed their option choices by Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April by completing the form on the link below.

[Year 8 Options Form](#)

Failure to do so may mean that your child will not be able to study their subjects of choice.

## **Trips and Visits**

You will be aware that trips both within the UK and abroad are not currently permitted and government guidelines are awaited as to when this may be reviewed. If, as is most likely, most school trips in the summer term have to be cancelled, the school will do all it can to facilitate refunds to you. We are in regular correspondence with the tour operators, suppliers and insurance companies.

Given the current circumstances, we are not requesting any further payments from parents and this option will, therefore, be removed from the School Gateway. Please be assured that we are reviewing all advice and will communicate our next steps as soon as we are in a position to do so. We are doing everything we can to mitigate any financial risk by waiting for clear guidelines before taking any further action. I would like to thank you for your patience in this matter.

## **Coachbright**

Work is underway to offer one to one online mentoring to Year 9 students taking part in the Coachbright scheme as a continuation of the programme which began in school last term. If your child is one of these students, please invite them to look out for information, which will be sent to them by email early next week.

## **Well Being**

We have uploaded to our website further advice and guidance for supporting positive mental health and wellbeing. Please visit our website for information, links and resources for parents and students and if you need any support at all please contact us on: [wellbeing@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:wellbeing@iscaexeter.co.uk)

Thank you all for your continued support through these challenging times. Please stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Aimee Mitchell, Headteacher**