

24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**COVID19 – Parent Update 24.04.2020**

You may have seen some unhelpful press headlines recently around the re-opening of schools. I can confirm that no announcement or suggestion has been made as to the timeline or process for re-opening. Schools remain closed until further notice, other than a provision to the children of critical workers and children who are vulnerable until further notice. We will obviously keep you updated as soon as this changes.

**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).

**Home Learning**

As we all settle into the new routine of home learning, I have been delighted to hear of how well our students have engaged with the material. There have been some great examples of dedicated and creative studying across all year groups. As mentioned last week, some of these are being mentioned in our Hot Chocolate Friday on the school's social media pages but we are also working on a whole-school reward and incentive strategy specifically aimed at recognising student achievements and positive attitude in home learning. Further news will follow on this.

Some of you have been in touch querying when students should access their work in each subject. The work is set by teachers a week in advance. We would suggest that students work on the material as per their normal school timetable to assist in maintaining routine and positive study habits, as well as ensuring that your child keeps up with work in every subject. However, we appreciate that each family's circumstances are different and this will not always be possible. The work set and resources can, therefore, be accessed any time and we hope that this will allow each student and home the flexibility they require to complete the work as and when feasible. Whatever your family routine, it is really important, as we move into this extended period of closure, that all students access the learning materials provided and your support to achieve this with your child is very much appreciated.

We are also conscious that accessing an electronic device, particularly in families where siblings all need to study on-line, can be a challenge and you will find on our website a Google Classroom App Guide to help students access the resources on their mobile phone if using a computer at home is not possible, or not possible all of the time. If you do not have access to any 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](#)

### **Parents Evening**

We are conscious that Parents' Evenings for Year 10 and 8 would have been due to take place this week and next, respectively. Obviously this was not possible so please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or teachers if you have any questions regarding their progress upon receipt of the school report.

Many thanks as ever for working with us through this period of closure as we are facing these new challenges together. Please stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Aimee Mitchell, Headteacher**