

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**COVID19 – Parent Update 26.06.2020**

Only three weeks of term left and the school continues to feel a little eerie without the hustle and bustle of our 900 students. We miss them all!

Your children's motivation to keep engaged with home learning may be waning in this final stretch to the summer holidays, particularly when the sun is shining so bright outside, and this is totally understandable. New work will continue to be posted on GoogleClassroom and our team remains on hand to help, right up to the final day, if your children need us, but we also understand that interest is bound to ebb a little as the year draws to a close.

We are very aware that screen fatigue will play a part in students finding it hard to sustain their efforts. This is also the time of the year when students would have been looking forward to throwing themselves into new and exciting activities as part of Enrichment Week. The team has, therefore, put a virtual Enrichment Week together for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. From 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July, we will be inviting students to step away from their on-line learning and get active, creative, resourceful and adventurous by attempting new activities suggested by our team. There will be a variety of subjects/themes for students to choose from. Students can follow a subject/theme for the entire week or 'pick n mix' from each of them. They will also be able to send in photos or diary entries of their endeavours and achievements if they wish to. Points will be awarded for each activity completed (in the form of bronze, silver and gold challenges) and totalled up at the end of the week. Further details are given in the attached Virtual Enrichment Week booklet, which can also be downloaded from our website. We would obviously encourage students to remain mindful of social distancing guidelines, where appropriate, when completing the activities.

On the issue of social distancing, you may have seen reports of a move towards reducing the safe distance between individuals to one metre. I would like to clarify that even with this change, guidance to secondary schools remains unchanged for this term and there are no plans, at this stage, to call more students back into school before the summer break. Our priority continues to be face to face support for Year 10 students while keeping students across all other year groups connected and engaged with home learning as much as possible. As part of the latter, we will ensure that every student is contacted before the holidays to close the year.

**2020 French Trip**

It is with regret that we can now confirm that the French trip planned for the autumn term has been cancelled. Refunds will be processed over the course of next week.

**Uniform**

New uniform items can be ordered on-line through SCOPay, the school's on-line payment system, or through the Price & Buckland website. It will unfortunately not be possible for Years 9 and 10 jackets to be fitted until the start of September, due to stock availability from the supplier.

### **Apprenticeship Opportunities**

Exeter College will be holding an apprenticeship virtual open event for students in Years 10 and 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Students can register and receive either general advice on apprenticeships and job services, or get more sector-specific information in one of the College's faculty rooms. Please follow the link: <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/open-events/>

Can I remind you that Mrs Jan Taylor, the school's Post-16 Mentor and Transition Co-ordinator, remains available if your child needs guidance or support with their next step in education. Students should feel free to make contact at: [jtaylor@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:jtaylor@iscaexeter.co.uk).

### **Staying Safe Online**

Whilst there are huge benefits to being online in order to stay connected to family and friends during this period, the government recognises many parents may feel concerned about the activities and content their children are accessing. This guidance outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to receive support and advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

### **Essential School**

Our in-school provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers across Years 7, 8 and 9 who cannot be cared for at home remains available. If you need a new school place, by contact us at: [attendance@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:attendance@iscaexeter.co.uk)

Thank you very much for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Aimee Mitchell, Headteacher**