



1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

You will, I am sure, have seen some of the speculation in circulation in the media with regards to the restrictions that will be in place for schools in September. As yet, we have not been provided with guidance from the Department of Education on how schools should prepare for this. It is very likely that this will be published later this week and as soon as we have decided how this will be implemented in September I will write to you to outline our plans for the start of the new school year. It is clearly the intention that all students should return to school in September and this is very much welcomed by all of us at the school. Hopefully, the updated guidance will facilitate this and allow us to return to classroom teaching. It has been immensely frustrating for us all that the school remains closed to the majority of our students. The response from all of our teachers who have had the opportunity to teach Year 10 or 12 students in school over the last two weeks has been of the joy in being able to interact with children in a learning context again.

We are increasing the frequency of live lessons for Years 10 and 12 (using Microsoft Teams) for the remainder of this term. The live lessons for Year 10 are in the option subjects as core subject sessions are being taught in school for this year group. We have a high level of confidence that most, if not all, Year 10 students are now able to access live lessons following the distribution of laptops to students this week. If this is not the case for your child, could you please contact the school as soon as possible so that they are able to participate in the live option subject lessons over the next two weeks. As yet, we are not able to extend live lessons to Key Stage 3 as a significant number of students are not in a position to be able to access these. Therefore, work for Years 7 to 9 will continue to be set via Show My Homework, including the video lesson links, or sent home as hard copy. We will be addressing this issue for September as in the event of a local lockdown during the next academic year, we would need to move to an online curriculum. It is our intention to ensure that all of our students are able to access an online curriculum using Teams by providing devices for students who do not have these at present. With this in mind, we will be sending a survey out to parents before the end of term to determine which of our students will need the school to loan them a laptop in the autumn and also to ask for feedback on you and your child's experience of home learning.

We will be sending you an end of year report at the end of this term, this will not include a review or evaluation of progress over the period that the school has been closed. Therefore the report will provide you with the attainment and progress data for your child up to the end of March. Given the length of time that our students have been away from school there is a need for parents to have contact with subject teachers as soon as possible once we return to school, in particular for the current Year 10 and 12 students. Therefore we have decided that a series of additional parents' evenings in Term 1 will be the most effective way of addressing parental concerns about progress and also an opportunity for you to brief teaching staff on what your child has found to be challenging during school closure. The first parents' evenings next year will be for current Year 10 and 12 students.



OLDFIELD  
SCHOOL

Best wishes and stay safe.

Mr Steven Mackay  
**Headteacher**