

Executive Principal: Mrs Ruth Holden, MA, NPQH

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks for your ongoing support in these difficult times, and I hope that as many of you as possible were outside your front doors and balconies at 8pm last night to recognise the work of our health workers in the NHS. As we are now a week into Home Learning, I wanted to share with you various bits of information that may prove useful to you.

### **Year 11 and 13 students**

We are still awaiting information from the DfE as to the process for the allocating of GCSE and A Level and BTEC grades this year. The early information suggests that predicted grades from teachers may be used, and then a formula applied to moderate this across the country to ensure a degree of national consistency. The suggestion is that students may then be given an opportunity to re-sit some of their exams in the next academic year if they wish to do so. Whilst this uncertainty remains Year 11 and 13 students should continue to work on their subjects as any progress they are able to demonstrate whilst working from home can be taken into account when predicted grades are given. This is all yet to be confirmed, but it is as much as we know at the moment. I will write to you again the minute we know more.

### **Children of key workers and site opening**

Mulberry School for Girls remains open for the children of key workers and those in certain vulnerable groups as the HUB school for the Trust – please refer to my other communications on the website about this and Free School Meal packed lunch provision.

### **Communication with teachers and other staff**

This is going really well and Google classroom is a great tool for teachers to supply work through. Please could I ask you to encourage your children to only email teachers if it is essential to do so as many teachers teach upwards of 200 students per week so we need to be mindful of the workload it generates if students are emailing regularly. Teachers will continue to set work each week as appropriate. Students should ensure they are completing work for all of their subjects, and not just their favourite ones!

### **Online safety**

Our new way of learning obviously means that students are now spending far greater amounts of time on line than before. With that in mind, the link below gives you a number of tips around online safety which you may find useful relating to social media apps, and advising how to set up parental controls on your computer.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

If you have any safeguarding concerns during this period of closure then please email your child's/children's Head of Year or our safeguarding Team continue to be on duty every day to support the students at home.

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## Wellbeing

The link below is from the World Health Organisation and contains information about healthy parenting in what are obviously unusual times. Again, you may find some of the advice useful.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/healthy-parenting>

## Other resources

In order to keep your children entertained there are now numerous websites offering educational content in the form of documentaries which are now free to use. The list below gives you a flavour of these. The timings are for guidance and you would certainly not have to use all of them, but you may find some of them interesting. You may wish to use some of these during the Easter holiday.

9.00am - PE with Joe Wicks [https://youtu.be/6v-a\\_dpwhro](https://youtu.be/6v-a_dpwhro)

10.00am - Maths with Carol Vorderman [www.themathsfactor.com](http://www.themathsfactor.com)

11.00am - English with David Walliams <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

12.00pm - Lunch (cooking with Jamie Oliver) <https://www.jamieoliver.com/feat.../category/get-kids-cooking/>

1.00pm - Music with Myleene Klass <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrIXYBn6jFXsXQ>

1.30pm - Dance with Darcey Bussell <https://twitter.com/diversedance.../status/1241098264373592065>

2.00pm - History with Dan Snow (free for 30-days) <https://tv.historyhit.com/signup/package>

4.00pm - Home Economics with Theo Michaels (Mon/Wed/Fri) <https://www.instagram.com/theocooks>

Non-daily events include:

Science with Professor Brian Cox, Robin Ince & Guests <https://cosmicshambles.com/stayathome/upcoming-schedule>

Startprofile - <https://www.startprofile.com/> is a student friendly website with engaging quizzes and videos about further education and the world of work so that students can continue to plan for their future.

Thank you once again for all of your messages of support, and I hope that you are all managing to remain healthy and well.

Yours sincerely



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