



Dear Parent/carer

There is no doubt that we are in very uncertain times and times of great sadness for many people. We are all getting used to the impact of social distancing on our daily lives, not being able to come together with family members and friends, as well as not being able to come together as a school community. School life is operating under very different circumstances, but together we continue to make it work and I want to thank you for all your support during this time. As we start the summer term, I would like to warmly welcome you back and update you with the latest events and what to expect this half term.

### **GCSE grades for Year 11 pupils**

Although this is clearly a time of great anxiety for our Year 11 pupils and their families, I want to reassure you that senior leaders and the exams officer are liaising with heads of department and class teachers to collect all the information needed to submit the grades to the exam boards. Teachers will make a judgement on which grade your son/daughter was most likely to achieve in their subject had teaching, learning and GCSE exams happened as planned. This will be based on a wide variety of evidence including:

- Performance over the whole course, taking into account: classwork, work in exercise books, non-exam assessments and coursework, performance on any assessments including any mock examinations.
- Within each subject pupils will be put in order of performance for each grade to help exam boards standardise judgements. It is important to note that exam boards will issue the final grade after receiving the above information.
- Pupils' grades will be issued on GCSE results day which will be on Thursday 20th August 2020.
- Please could I ask that you do not contact teachers or anyone else at school to tell you the grade they will be sending to the exam board or where they have placed certain pupils in the order of students; they are simply not allowed to share this with anyone.
- If after receiving results in August, your son/daughter is not happy with their final grades, there may be an opportunity to appeal but also sit additional exams in the Autumn term (no dates available as yet) so it is important to keep studying at home if at some point they decide they want to sit the exam in a particular subject. There are lots of resources on the VLE for year 11 pupils to help them to do this.

I appreciate this is a great deal of information to take on board and if you have any concerns or questions, please email the school on [datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk](mailto:datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk) or you can contact Mr Aziz (Assistant Headteacher) on [saziz2@w-h-s.org.uk](mailto:saziz2@w-h-s.org.uk)

### **Support for home learning**

Teachers are continuing to add work for pupils onto Westborough's learning platform – the V.L.E. (virtual learning environment). This will be done weekly so it is clear which assignments the pupils should be doing.



Teachers are also responding to emails, so please encourage your child/children to email their teacher if they are struggling to complete the work.

The government has released some information about online lessons they have developed; this resource is called the Oak National Academy. To help you use this resource we have produced a help sheet which is on the website. In addition we have produced an information sheet about other sources of learning, again you will find this on the website. Please take the time to look at this as the suggestions may help you during this very challenging time.

If you are having any problems accessing the V.L.E. or with the equipment required, such as problems with internet access or devices such as laptops do get in touch. We are able to solve many concerns/issues very quickly.

### **Options information for Year 8**

This half term is when we intended to launch the Options process for Year 8 ready for when they start Year 9 in September 2020. This will still go ahead. Miss Duquesnay (Deputy Headteacher) will be in touch next week with further guidance for pupils and their parents and carers

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

If your child is entitled to free school meals, each week a voucher will be sent to your child's school email account for you to redeem at a participating supermarket. The voucher is scheduled to arrive at the start of the week however during busy periods it can be delayed, if this is the case we will notify you with a text message.

We strongly encourage all parents who are entitled to this scheme to redeem their vouchers as soon as possible as the **vouchers will expire after 30 days**. If you are a parent who is eligible, but not currently benefiting from this scheme, information on how to apply can be found on the school website. Again if you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Digital Devices for Year 10 pupils** (in receipt of free school meals or have been in the last 6 years and school children with social workers).

As you may have seen at the weekend, the government advised that schools will be able to access additional remote learning resources to help pupils continue with their studies from home. Digital devices will be available on loan from school for Year 10 pupils (in receipt of free school meals or who have been in the last 6 years and school children with social workers.) These are aimed towards pupils who do not already have access to a digital device or access to an internet connection. Whilst we appreciate that many of you will be keen to be included in this scheme, we are currently awaiting further information from the local authority, who will order these devices. Schools, parents and pupils are **not** able to order the devices themselves, but we will do all we can to support our pupils in making the most of this scheme.



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At this moment in time the local authority is waiting for guidance on how to place these orders.

## Communication

- Pastoral staff are continuing to ring families as a 'keep in touch' phone call where you can raise any concerns or support you need. If you miss the phone call, they will telephone you back, please do not ring on the school line as they are using school mobiles. Currently over 800 families have been contacted and these phone calls will continue over this half term.
- Please could you ensure we have your up to date contact details as a priority. If you have changed your mobile phone number, it is essential you let us know so we can keep in touch with you.
- If you or your child are struggling with any aspect of school life, please feel free to email [datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk](mailto:datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk) and we will be happy to provide support. We have responded to 250 emails in the past two weeks so this is working really well.

Thank you so much again for your continued support and hard work in taking on the task of home schooling your children in and amongst everything else you have to do.

Keep safe

Best wishes

J Napper