



3 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School life has changed a great deal in the last couple of weeks and never has the joint working between parent/carers and Westborough staff been more evident. There is no doubt that the coronavirus has turned our community upside down, but together we are making it work. Thank you for encouraging your children to access the work online and I absolutely appreciate that being educated at home is very different to being in a school environment. If you require any further help and guidance, please do not hesitate to contact school. In this letter I will update you with the best ways to contact school during these challenging times.

Today is the last day of term and we now have two weeks Easter holiday; again this is going to be very different for Westborough families and Westborough staff. I would encourage you to approach the holidays differently to term time and we have put some activities on the website to help with this. Education is not just about gaining knowledge of subjects, there are many useful skills children need that are important in the real world, but which teachers struggle to find time to teach because of the demands of the curriculum. I know many of you are taking the time to develop these important skills, such as baking and other creative activities.

During this difficult time, we can keep focused on our values of, 'kindness, honesty and respect' and our belief that, 'Together We Succeed.' The press are reporting that 'kindness' is a positive that might emerge from this crisis, as in the UK more than 700,000 volunteers stepped forward to help the NHS, and the nation showed its appreciation by applauding the NHS in unison. Indeed research into 600 medical students showed that the young people who were generous with their time overtook their peers and that a 'kinder attitude' was a more powerful predictor of success, because it led to the medical students collaborating and greater teamwork skills. I am proud that kindness is one of our core values, especially at such times as these.

Communication

Clear communication between home and school is more important than ever, so you are still in touch with Westborough. We have supplied pastoral staff such as progress leaders and year leaders with a mobile phone and they are in the process of contacting families over the coming weeks with a personal phone call. If you miss the phone call, they will telephone you back, please do not ring on the school line as this will not be staffed over the next two weeks as the school building will be closed over Easter.

Summary

- Pastoral staff are ringing families as a 'keep in touch' phone call where you can raise any concerns or support you need
- In addition if you have any queries/questions to do with the academic life of the school, please use the following email address:

datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk

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This is checked daily. Thank you for your patience as your query will be answered but it may not be the same day. The following are things you may need to email about:

- Accessing the VLE and online learning
 - Usernames and passwords
 - School website or twitter account
 - Email accounts
 - ICT equipment and devices on loan to pupils
 - Yr11 exams and grading – we are still waiting for information from Ofqual
 - Free school meal vouchers
- You can also contact Westborough staff via email. The email addresses of pastoral staff are as follows:
 - Year 7 ncullen@w-h-s.org.uk
 - Year 8 cmarsden@w-h-s.org.uk
 - Year 9 mgarside@w-h-s.org.uk
 - Year 10 lyates@w-h-s.org.uk
 - Year 11 zsidad@w-h-s.org.uk

For learning and progress questions/concerns the emails of Progress Leaders are as follows:

- Years 7 & 8 orushworth@w-h-s.org.uk
- Years 9 & 10 sferguson@w-h-s.org.uk
- Year 11 lwilliams@w-h-s.org.uk

For safeguarding concerns or advice email:

- Deputy Headteacher in charge of safeguarding gsweasey@w-h-s.org.uk
- Family liaison officer ksmith@w-h-s.org.uk

On the website you will also find some information from the council which outlines support available in the community.

Continue to visit the school website www.w-h-s.org.uk or search for Westborough High School; we have added a coronavirus update section to help you navigate your way to important documents.

If your enquiry needs attention during the Easter holidays, please use datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk

Again, thank you for your continued co-operation and support at this difficult time. Our thoughts are with you. I hope you have a restful Easter.

Kindest regards

J Napper