



Dear Parent/carer

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. As you may be aware, the government has made an announcement about the possibility of some face to face contact with Year 10 during next half term. This is part of the government's plan and is under constant review, depending upon scientific advice, so may change. We are working through the guidance, with the highest regard to pupil and community safety and will be in touch with Year 10 families in due course after the half term break.

The current school closure is a very difficult situation for everyone – parents, carers, pupils, teachers and school staff. Schools remain closed to try to limit the spread of the coronavirus in the community and protect the NHS. But the community spirit that we all have will keep us succeeding throughout these sad and frustrating times. The most important message remains to keep safe and follow the government guidelines on social distancing.

At the moment there is no additional information on Years 7, 8 and 9 but we will continue to keep you informed as and when we get any further news. In the meantime, home learning will continue and although a different way of studying the resources available for your child are very high quality.

We appreciate that it is difficult to keep everyone motivated so we have introduced a rewards scheme to help you encourage your children to keep taking part in home learning. In addition every week we are updating the website with some ideas to support you with home schooling. This week the focus is on improving pupils' vocabulary; such activities will really help your children to succeed in their studies and the benefit is that pupils can work on them independently. Teachers are also working extremely hard on lessons they will deliver when we are all back at school full time when it is safe to do so, paying attention to the topics pupils would have studied this term.

### **Encouragement for pupils to engage with home schooling**

- Every week each year group is sent a praise and reward email
- Class teachers are emailing their pupils to encourage them to complete the work and explain anything the pupils do not understand
- Class teachers and form tutors will nominate individuals for excellent effort with their home learning
- The pupils who have been nominated will be entered into a prize draw and the first prize draw will be on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Love2shop vouchers will be posted out to the winners
- The Bedrock vocabulary builder competition starts next week. The top 4 students who complete the most amount of lessons will win a £10 love2shop voucher! The top student who makes the most amount of progress will win a pair of airpods!
- The website will be updated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May with activities that families can do during the week's holiday.
- Any concerns or queries with accessing the work, please email [datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk](mailto:datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk)



In addition the school website is regularly updated with other resources to help you during these times, from financial support to support with mental health. We have worked hard to ensure the website is easy for families to navigate, but again please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are struggling.

## Communication

- Pastoral staff continue 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. All families have been contacted which is an amazing achievement and keeps us all connected, reinforcing a sense of community and care; these phone calls will continue.
- 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. You can do this by emailing [datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk](mailto:datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk) or ringing 01924 469549 between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.
- For safeguarding concerns or advice email:
  - Deputy Headteacher in charge of safeguarding [gsweasey@w-h-s.org.uk](mailto:gsweasey@w-h-s.org.uk)
  - Family liaison officer [ksmith@w-h-s.org.uk](mailto:ksmith@w-h-s.org.uk)

We have probably never faced as big a challenge as we are facing at the moment and different families will be affected in different ways, but we are united in our support for each other. We have the commitment to keep going and we do so with kindness. We hope you and your family are well and thank you for encouraging your children to have a positive outlook when approaching their school work.

Keep safe

Best wishes

J Napper