

Ref: RV/hw

3 April 2020

Dear Parents

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Here we are at the end of the most unusual term any of us could have imagined. I hope that you and your family are safe and well. Thank you for the positive feedback that so many of you have given us regarding our online way of working. Thank you also for your patience and understanding regarding your enquiries and requests for advice and support.

I am very proud of the overwhelming numbers of pupils who have been busy working hard at home. Their teachers are full of praise for them. I'd like to thank the teachers and all of our support staff who have risen to these new challenges in creative and flexible ways. I'm sure that the lessons we are learning will further improve teaching and learning in the future.

Year 11 GCSE Exams

As promised, OFQUAL, the Government examinations regulator, have now updated their advice to schools about the award of grades this Summer. Here is the link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020> It is also available through the school website.

A letter from OFQUAL to students is being circulated by Mr Kelly through Show My Homework. As a school, we will be working through this material and will update you after the Easter break.

Easter Break

As you will be aware staff will not be setting work during the Easter holidays (from Friday 3 April until Friday 17 April 2020). Staff will be setting work commencing Monday 20 April 2020. However, it's worth pupils keeping up with Twitter as we will be continuing to communicate in this way over the break; some staff will also be posting additional activities. In particular, Year 10 should follow the suggestions and revision ideas that Mr Isherwood is providing over the Easter break.

For continued pastoral support, Year Leaders have offered to keep regular checks on messages during the Easter break using *Show My Homework*. You will be aware that they have been using this platform to keep in touch with their year group by posting daily bulletins. We have also provided advice on careers, wellbeing and mental health. To add to our own resources on mental health and wellbeing, Lancashire have provided the following materials for parents

<http://www.btrcc.lancs.sch.uk/btmedia/Distance-Learning/Study-during-the-school-closure.pdf>
and <http://www.btrcc.lancs.sch.uk/btmedia/Distance-Learning/Mental-Health-advice.pdf>

If your child is feeling anxious or vulnerable and you feel that the school could support and help in any way, please contact Miss McCue on jmccue@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk.

Work Experience

It will come as little surprise, that despite our commitment to running work experience placements for every Year 10 pupils, we have no option but to cancel work experience this year. Although we deeply regret this, we are confident that we will address pupils' needs, as we continue to support them with our comprehensive careers programme.

Burnley Food Banks

We understand that some families are in particular difficulty at this time. Burnley food banks have teamed up together under the banner 'Burnley Together'. Their new number is 01282 686402. They try to deliver daily. Families can ring up each week for a parcel if needed. Repeat parcels are only delivered on request.

Government Advice

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The Government have especially emphasised the importance of staying home this weekend even though the weather will be glorious.

The most important thing to do, for all of us, is to follow the Government advice below:

Gov.uk Advice re Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do

Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)

If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times

Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

The single most important action we can all take in fighting coronavirus is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.

Finally

I wish you and your families a happy and holy Easter. We will be sharing resources to help commemorate Holy Week and Easter on Twitter. May we all find a sense of the joy of the Resurrection over the coming weeks. Many thanks for your continuing support. God Bless. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Richard Varey
Headteacher