

10 April 2020



Dear parents and carers

I hope you are safe and well as we navigate our way through the national crisis. How deeply indebted we are to the wonderful staff in the NHS, and other key workers, who day after day put their lives on the line for us.

Working from Home (WFH)

Thank you for supporting your children with *Show My Homework*. About 90% of students have been logging in regularly to complete the tasks set. Your welcome feedback has been very positive. Coronavirus has forced us overnight to rethink how we teach, and we are learning as we go!

It is difficult for us to judge accurately how much work we can reasonably expect students to manage. We know, for example, that some students are feeling a bit overwhelmed by the number of assignments. Some of these then show up as 'Failed/Late submission' if they aren't completed by a set deadline. We have changed the way we set work to avoid this happening in future.

I have now asked teachers to start evaluating what they think is working well, and where we can make changes. If you have any suggestions of your own, please let me know.

How GCSEs, AS & A levels will be awarded in summer 2020

Ofqual has now published its guidance on how GCSEs, AS and A Levels will be graded this summer in the absence of any public examinations. You can read it [here](#). Students in Years 11 and 13 and parents have been informed separately.

Safeguarding – reporting your concerns

If you have concerns about the welfare or safety of a young person, you can follow the links below to report your concerns.

- [Childline](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- You can find further guidance on the school's website [here](#).

Year 11 Prom

Ravenwood Hall Hotel have now confirmed that due to the current situation they are unable to host the Y11 Prom on 3 July as planned. We know that students will be disappointed but hope that we may be able to secure an alternative date later in the year. Unfortunately, we are unable to confirm at this stage when this might be.

Free school meals

The Government has announced that it will fund free school meals over the Easter holiday for those students who are eligible. This is administered through a card system that can be used in supermarkets. We have topped up cards for parents. Please contact us if you are experiencing any problems with this.

Finally ...

Human beings are remarkably flexible and learn to adapt swiftly to adversity. Coronavirus has in many ways brought us closer together. We have been making technology work for us. Communities have sought to look after those who are isolated or vulnerable. It is my great hope that we learn from this crisis, and change our behaviour for the better, when things return to normal.

My best wishes to you all for a very happy Easter.

Peter Whear
Headteacher