

20 April 2020



Dear parents and carers

There have been significant government announcements over the past few days, including about education.

Yesterday, Sunday, the education secretary said he couldn't give a date for when English schools would reopen, and that there were "no plans" to open schools over summer. This is deeply unsettling for all of us. There is nothing I would like to see more at the moment than for our society to get back to some sense of normality, and for schools to reopen. This is clearly some way off.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide online learning for our students. To support this, you may find the following links helpful. The BBC is enhancing its education provision at [BBC Bitesize Daily](#) to include daily lessons, starting from 20 April 2020. In addition to this, [Oak National Academy](#), a new collection of lessons and online resources backed by the Government, has been created in response to the coronavirus lockdown.

Although there is a lot of information and support online for students, parents and carers, I appreciate that learning like this isn't always easy. Many homes are experiencing slow or patchy broadband. Others have no access to the internet at all. Yesterday's government announcement referred to laptops and 4G routers being provided for some families, but I haven't yet received information about how this scheme will operate.

Year 10 work experience

In view of the continued uncertainty about when the lockdown restrictions will ease, we have decided to cancel planned work experience for Year 10 students this summer.

Arrangements for awarding GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020

I have written about Ofqual's planned arrangements for the summer. They are now seeking the public's views on a number of features of the exceptional arrangements for awarding GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020. You can read their consultation document [here](#), where you will also be able to submit your views should you wish.

PE

The PE department is posting weekly fun challenges for students on its Twitter page. Students have the option to post their own videos there!

Finally, [this link](#) will take you to the latest government updates for parents and carers.

My best wishes to you all

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Whear'.

Peter Whear
Headteacher