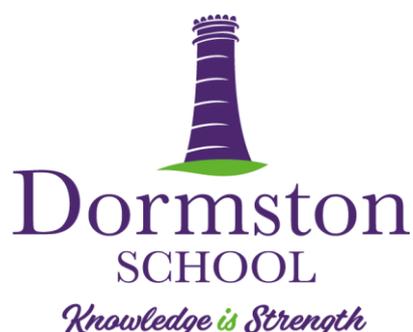


Our Ref: SDN/KON

20 March 2020



ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers

COVID-19 UPDATE - 20 MARCH 2020

I am writing to you once more, after what I am sure has been a turbulent and anxious week for us all. Thank you for bearing with us over this difficult time. We are sorry that over the last few days we have had to bombard you with so much information which must have been a lot to digest. As you know, the situation is ever changing and we can only report on the information as we get it.

Moving forward, we are planning to ensure we have a good communication strategy in place with both students, parents and staff and envisage that as things settle down, we will be able to communicate with slightly less urgency. We are planning however to continue with our Weekly/Monthly Update Sheets and we will be regularly writing directly to students to ensure they feel connected.

Year 11 Update

Our Year 11 came in to school today at 10.30am to give us a chance to get them together before the school closes. This was not their official leavers' assembly and we are sorry that those students who were self-isolating could not attend but we thank them for playing their part in slowing the spread of the virus down. The attitudes of our students in facing the adversity they have come up against is testament to their character and they are an absolute credit to you all as parents.

Please do not think that this means that we are no longer going to be in contact with our Year 11 students as this is not the end and they will not be forgotten, far from it. ALL students will be getting a letter on Monday which we hope will start to set the scene for how we plan to stay in touch and work through the next few months together so please encourage them to check their school email. As you know, the Prom will take place at some point and we look forward to seeing our students looking fabulous and enjoying themselves.

You may be aware that the Education Minister has released some indication of how assessment grades will be awarded for GCSEs:

- *"The plan is to use a combination of prior achievements, internal teacher-assessed tracking information, predicted grades and analysis and modelling of existing data trends to provide the necessary assurance about the robustness, accuracy and fairness of the grades being awarded".*

As we know more information we will of course let you know.

Key Workers

The Government have asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. We are

operating with a skeleton staff. The education provided will mainly consist of access to GO4Schools whilst under supervision.

A few parents have queried about shift work as they won't necessarily require their children to come into school every day. We are willing to support these key workers in any way we can and we are able to be flexible with this; all we ask is that you tell us at least 2 weeks in advance when your child will be in. If you can give us your shift pattern until the end of Easter that would be even better. We hope all our key workers are coping with the current demands of their job and want to reassure you that as a school we are 100% behind you in the task ahead of you.

We open at 8.20am on Monday for our key worker children and your child will be expected to arrive by 8.40am. After this time it will be difficult to admit students as we are operating a skeleton staff. We can provide some breakfast and will also operate basic lunch facilities. Lunch will be a cold sandwich selection and drinks. Breaks and lunches will follow the normal school timetable. Students will be dismissed at 3.00pm. **If you gave us your child's name by today's 9.00am deadline your child has been allocated a place. We will contact you individually if we require any further clarification.**

Our behaviour standards whilst students are in school will however need to be maintained and we ask that you speak to your child about ensuring they are clear of our expectations.

Students Working from Home

From Monday any children working from home should be accessing GO4Schools and completing the work set for them and reviewing their Knowledge Organisers. I have asked the staff when setting the work to note whether it is for one lesson or a project that might span several lessons. We are also asking students to spend one hour a day reading and to try and take part in some physical activity. We would like students to follow their normal timetable as much as possible and stay in a routine. We have created email distribution lists for every teaching set in the school so that teachers can email their classes if they need to do so. We respectfully request that our students are working inside rather than being allowed to spend time during the day socialising with large groups of friends out in the local community. Our key workers will be doing their very best to ensure we are all kept safe and we want to help them by ensuring our students are following government guidance and being good citizens.

Trip Re-imburements

We appreciate that this is a financially uncertain time and any trip re-imburements that you may be entitled to are really important. We are already processing refunds for trips that have been cancelled. Due to the volume of refunds we are working as quickly as possible to resolve this. The Year 11 ParentPay accounts will also be reimbursed in due course.

We hope you have a good weekend whatever you are doing and that you are able to relax and spend time with loved ones, we would also like to wish all mothers a Happy Mother's Day. The reality is, that when all is said and done, the most important thing is to be kind to each other and appreciate more than ever what really matters.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dixon
Head Teacher