

30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you very much for your support and patience as we establish new ways of working in these uncertain times. Now, more than ever, our partnership with families is vital and we are keen to maintain positive contact with you and your child throughout the period of the school closure.

You are already likely to have heard from your child's tutor or mentor by phone or email. Please note that if we call, it will appear as a withheld number, but we do encourage you to respond so that we can keep in touch.

Family welfare is our first concern and we definitely don't want to add pressure for parents at this difficult time. Therefore, we are trying to maintain a balance between continuity of learning and being realistic in our expectations and we recognise that these expectations will vary according to the pupil.

Work will be uploaded by your child's teachers every week onto Class Charts and packs will be posted out for those who have requested them. We would encourage at least a few hours a day of school work during the weeks when pupils would ordinarily be in school. Routine and discipline in private study is setting great habits for when things get back to normal but this can be in blocks of time that suit you all as a family and should not be a source of stress. We will be responsive and if your child needs more work or is struggling to prioritise or access resources or feedback, then please raise this in the regular contact with the tutor and we'll do our best to recalibrate according to the specific need.

It is totally acceptable for you to make the decision to prioritise family activity at certain points and you must choose what works best for your child. We'd encourage you to exercise, play, read, talk and cook together and all of these things are of great value at any time but especially now. For sharing of books, Audible has announced they are making audio books free for children. Here is the link: <a href="https://stories.audible.com/discovery">https://stories.audible.com/discovery</a> It has categories for every age group including literary classics and books in other languages.

We hope that our approach will provide you with the balance between the flexibility that all families need with the opportunities for structure that will ensure learning can continue in a variety of forms over the academy closure period.

Take care this week.

Best wishes Richard Trow

**Headteacher**: Mr R Trow

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