



From the Headmaster  
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Dear Parents

Today has been a very different start to a new school term with many pupils and staff working from home and the School itself unusually empty. Most important of all, I hope you and your families remain well and that the time soon comes when we are all able to be together again in school.

You will notice that this start of term letter is not in its usual colourful format. I hope you will forgive this but it is the result of a role having been furloughed. Again, I hope normal service will resume soon. I am very grateful to the staff who have engaged with the furlough scheme so positively even though the vast majority would prefer the normality and structure that our roles provide. Likewise, colleagues have taken on extra work to cover for them.

In the meantime, we would like to welcome Miss Grace Crawford who returns to the Pre Prep as a Reception teacher (maternity cover), Mr Amardeep Dewal who joins the maths department and is a Third Form tutor (maternity cover) and Mrs Elizabeth Galea who is the new Purchase Ledger Administrator. We hope they will all be very happy in their new roles.

We send our congratulations to Mrs Flo FitzGerald and her husband Ed on the arrival of their baby daughter Eve.

We have enjoyed hearing news of how pupils from across the School have engaged with remote learning and some have featured on social media. Please do follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and if you are unsure as to how to do so, please contact Miss Jayne Burton (Director of Marketing) on [jbarton@chigwell-school.org](mailto:jbarton@chigwell-school.org). Whilst we may not be able to meet in person, it is good to connect in other ways.

Thank you to all those of you who have continued to send warm messages for the staff who are working so hard to support pupils in these very unusual times and in all areas of school life. I should add that pupils appear to have adapted really well in the vast majority of cases and their resilience is impressive. Many have also played their part supporting the wider community and you may have spotted Lower Fifth pupil Jack who played 'Over The Rainbow' on saxophone for Thursday evening's NHS Clap and was featured on the BBC News. Meanwhile, Lower Sixth student Jyoti is fundraising to combat COVID-19 in Africa.

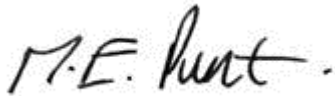
Design and Technology staff Mrs Nicola Jermyn, Mrs Michaela Chan and Mr Mark Garth have worked very hard producing visors to be used by NHS staff. Several hundred have been produced and are now being worn by those working in hospitals, surgeries and care homes.

We have had positive feedback on the Coping With COVID webinars for pupils, parents and staff. Our plan is to repeat this. Sadly, a very small number of Chigwell families have lost close family members; if this happens, please do let us know so that we can support pupils in the normal way.

A parent contacted me this morning and quoted an old Sanskrit saying which translates as 'This too shall pass' ... and, of course, it will. When it does, I suspect we will be even clearer about what makes Chigwell so special, not least being together as a busy, evolving diverse community with people doing good things at the centre. In the meantime, stay safe and stay in touch.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.E. Punt." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Punt