



From the Headmaster  
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Dear Parents

I hope you and your families are well at the end of what has seemed a long half term. Clearly, we have all had the challenge of keeping school going without going to school in the normal way.

We are making arrangements to enable pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return after half term if it is decided that it is safe to do so, following the Government guidance, particularly with regard to social distancing. We will write to parents concerned about this separately. The Government has stated that it would like Year 10 and 12 pupils to have 'some face to face support' next half term, although it has also been stated that 'this will not be a return to full timetable or pupils back in school full time'. Again, when we have further details, we will contact families but, in the meantime, remote teaching and learning will continue.

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 have sat internal exams remotely this half term and internal exams for Years 10 and 12 will take place next half term. Remote exams have been a new experience and thanks go to the pupils who have engaged with these so well. Likewise, we have been impressed with Year 11 and 13 pupils who, despite not having to sit actual GCSE and A level exams, have been working hard to prepare for the next stage of their education. Details of arrangements for after half term have been sent separately regarding pre-A level and pre-university courses.

As I explained earlier this term:

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June will be a teaching day rather than a staff INSET day as previously planned
- Activities Week will not go ahead this year, sadly
- We will either have a remote Speech Day on 4<sup>th</sup> July or move the event to later in the year if we judge that an event might be possible in a few months' time – it all depends on social distancing

Many of us value and look forward to these events but clearly, we have to react to the current circumstances.

Some one thousand visors have been made by Mrs Michaela Chan and Mrs Nicola Jermyn in the D&T department, and Miss Jayne Burton has co-ordinated requests and collection. They are now being used in settings which include surgeries, NHS hospitals, health centres, pharmacies, care homes, hospices, food banks, schools for children with special needs and housing associations. Hopefully the visors have provided protection to those working on the front line.

Thank you for all your kind messages of support which are much appreciated. Unfortunately, this letter is not in its normal coloured format with photographs of pupils engaged in activities because a role here has been furloughed. However, we have been sharing stories and videos on social media so please do follow us if you are not doing so already. It's said that "a smooth sea never made a skilled sailor" and it certainly has felt rather choppy lately. However, pupils and staff have really risen to the challenge of the current situation and new skills will have been learnt by all.

Lastly, I wish you an enjoyable half term even though the circumstances will limit opportunities to travel and/or see extended family. Do stay healthy, keep in touch and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

With best wishes

Michael Punt