



3 April 2020

PARENT AND CARER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well, and finding ways to cope and manage with life's complications and current challenges. Using a well-rehearsed phrase, we are living in unprecedented times!

At school we are doing our very best to find sensible, supportive and positive ways to communicate to our students, their families and staff. From the feedback received to date, under current circumstances, this seems to be going well.

Home Learning

Our students have responded well to the challenges of home learning. Many have been sharing their work with their teachers. The staff will continue to set work using Class Charts and respond to queries via email for as long as is necessary. Please encourage your child to complete work on the day that it is set, where possible. Some work may be set over longer periods and that will be clear on Class Charts.

For further clarification, there is no expected method for completing work, or for submitting it. Students should follow instructions and try, with your help when available, to complete it to their best of their ability. This may be on a PC, with pen and paper or practically. In some cases, students may wish to send their work to staff. Spending hours at a computer is not good for our children, therefore please encourage them to have regular breaks, fresh air and variety in their day.

Please contact Mr Melton, Senior Assistant Headteacher, with any Class Charts system queries n.melton@tuptonhall.org.uk.

It has been hugely impressive to see examples of student work that has been completed at home. Mrs Neville, Senior Assistant Headteacher, has compiled a short media clip showcasing some of the work submitted to date. <https://youtu.be/e8fFmlc14hM>

Please encourage your child to email photo images of their best work to Mrs Neville: a.neville@tuptonhall.org.uk. She will share a weekly showcase video with homes to celebrate the work of our students and their excellent attitudes to learning.

Over the two week Easter holiday there will be no Class Charts work set, nor expectation that our students complete school work. We recognise this is an important time for families. Class Charts work will begin again on Monday 20 April 2020.

Your child's form tutors and other pastoral staff will have been checking in with your children throughout school time. This is to see if they require any further support beyond Class Charts and home learning. I am very aware that school is sharing what I hope is helpful information with you, either through the website, parent app, Class Charts, text or email. Your feedback is very important to inform us if we are getting this right. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you wish to share any general comments relating to this, or ideas for improvement at headteacher@tuptonhall.org.uk.

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GCSE and A Level Update – awarding grades to students

Today Ofqual, the examination regulator, has confirmed how GCSE and A Level grades for students will be awarded this academic year.

We will be sharing a general guidance letter to students from Ofqual directly to their school email addresses and publishing this on the school website and associated apps on Monday 6 April 2020.

Free School Meals

Parents of children eligible for free school meals will have received an email with a link to an e-voucher for Tesco supermarket. This email was sent to the parental contact with first preference on the school information management system. A further e-voucher will be issued shortly. Please contact school at enquiries@tuptonhall.org.uk if you are eligible and have not received the first voucher.

To close, I would like to sincerely thank you for all that you are doing in support of the school's mission to continue to educate and support our children, even in these difficult times. We understand that all of the systems and processes that are being used are not perfect or ideal. However, our collective work in partnership with parents and the community to safeguard our children, support their learning and mental health, whilst dealing with the trauma of Covid-19 is truly amazing and humbling.

I would also like to take this opportunity to again thank the staff at Tupton Hall School. They continue to act with great professionalism, care and diligence in carrying on with school duties whilst managing the impact of Covid-19 and disruption to normal life. They are a team of courageous colleagues and a credit to the profession and to the community which we serve.

I wish you a safe and healthy Easter and leave you with a poem for reflection.

Everything is Going to be All Right, by Derek Mahon

How should I not be glad to contemplate
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.
The poems flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be all right.

Mr Andrew J Knowles - Headteacher