



24 March 2020

PARENT AND CARER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing with an update on school, and how we are supporting the nation's efforts to support critical workers, contain the spread and manage the impact of the outbreak of COVID -19.

Firstly, thank you to you. I am extremely grateful to our families who have heeded the advice and guidance from the government to keep children at home. Other than for a small number of critical workers' children and vulnerable young people, numbers of children in school have been low.

I am indebted to our brave and committed staff who have continued to come into school to work this week, often when anxious and afraid for their own safety and for that of their families. They are heroes, and are prepared to continue to work in school for as long as is required.

Students in school have been subjected to necessary social distancing routines and hygiene protocols which have been regimented and strict. They have responded in a mature and responsible manner and have been great ambassadors for the school and their families.

Home Learning

We hope that the Home Learning routines through Class Charts and regular email communication is settling down. I am aware that staff have been responding to daily emails and finding solutions to concerns and queries. Please continue to be patient whilst these systems become embedded and more familiar for students and staff.

If students are experiencing problems with accessing Class Charts work they should email Mr Melton, Senior Assistant Headteacher at n.melton@tuptonhall.org.uk Year 11 and 13 students may ask if they need to/should continue to study and prepare for examinations. After the exam boards award students their grades in July, students may wish to sit an examination in the autumn if they do not feel they have been given a fair grade. Therefore, the advice we are giving at this time, is that they should continue to revise either GCSE or A Level material for relevant subjects. Teachers will be setting work or revision to help students with this.

GCSE and A Level Qualifications

The school will be following The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) guidance to review all Year 11 and 13 forecast grades to ensure that these are accurate. Further clarification will follow in the weeks ahead for students and parents.

As noted above, Sixth Form students should continue to check email and Class Charts and complete any coursework or assessments. This is especially important as this could form part of a student's final grade.

Year 12 students should continue to generate notes in line with teacher instruction as this will support learning for A Level examinations in 2021.

(Continued...)



Year 13 students should complete student finance applications together with completing work set as described.

Universities are prepared to accept students' awarded grades as per any other year. They will be flexible and supportive, and will be sending students information directly. Students should liaise directly with Mrs Burton, Head of Post 16, prior to accepting any university unconditional offers.

Foreign Trips

You will be aware that all planned foreign trips from school have been cancelled. We are working with the various trip companies to ensure that reimbursements are in line with insurance and government cancellation policies. Please be patient as school works through this process as, sadly, five foreign trips have been cancelled affecting well over 200 students and families.

Free School Meals

We have made arrangements with Tesco to issue Free School Meal Vouchers to parents whose children are eligible to claim free school meals. These will be distributed this week to families. Direct contact will be made to these families to explain the method of distribution.

Obviously this is a fast moving and ever changing situation that school is responding to on a daily basis. Please continue to check texts, emails, the school website and social media sites for messages and updates from school.

Serving our wonderfully rich and diverse community is a privilege that the school and its staff take seriously.

I wish you all good health and the very best over the next few days and weeks.

Kind regards

Mr Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher