



PARENT NEWSLETTER FIFTH EDITION

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

I did not anticipate writing to you in the current circumstances. As a team of teaching professionals we find ourselves in a period of uncertainty, a feeling that I am sure you are also experiencing from home. As such I am using the fifth edition of the parental newsletter to offer guidance and indeed some reassurance around the plans to support the continuation of learning from home in the event of a school closure.

Home Learning Packs: All students have been issued with a paper-based folder of personalised revision activities. These have been tailor made to match students timetables and tier of entry for Maths.

Exercise Books: All students were instructed in assemblies last week to collect all books and folders from teachers. It is essential that this is done because in the event of a school closure, we might not be given any advanced warning, meaning student books could be left in school.

The Virtual Classroom: Our main platform for continued student education will be the Google Drive. Students have already been sent a link to the drive, however, the folder will only become fully accessible and populated with resources in the event of closure. Students will be required to follow their regular school timetable and work will be made available daily by staff. This will be done using a variety of methods to deliver tutorials and resources. Feedback will also be provided using this platform. Parental support will be key to minimising the impact of disruption and ensuring the continuation of education. This means supporting students in following their regular timetable, a copy of which has been provided in their home learning folder.

Finally could I pass on my best wishes to you and your families at this time of uncertainty. As always, I will make myself available in the event of a closure to respond to any questions from students or parents.

Mr S. Parker (s.parker@seahamhighschool.com)

What if your son/daughter is already in self-isolation?

We recognise that a number of families have been forced to self-isolate in response to government advice. If this is the case then students should be utilising the paper based home learning packs in the interim period before any school closure is announced. Staff have been asked today to make their ordinary lesson resources available via the Google Drive. Please be mindful that there may be some inconsistencies due to staff absence and workload at this busy time.

What if I don't have access to technology or the internet?

Students are able to access the Google Drive from smartphones and complete work on paper.

Where this isn't an option, students have been asked to notify Mr Neale as a matter of urgency so that he can arrange paper based work for students in the form of textbooks and work booklets. Where students complete work on paper, this can be photographed and emailed to teachers or uploaded to the Google Drive app.

What will happen with the summer exams?

At this moment in time the guidance from Ofqual is limited. I recognise that this will be a cause of anxiety for year 11 and at this moment in time all that I can say is that I will endeavour to update pupils and parents with information as I receive it.

I wish I could give further reassurance but I would be unwise to offer guidance without having any information from the exams regulators.

Prom: In response to student concerns, I must update parents and carers with regards to the school prom. Whilst school leaders are committed to ensuring the prom goes ahead, we must follow advice from Public Health England and Central Government around public gatherings. I must therefore encourage parents and carers not to purchase any prom related items at this time. Further guidance will be given as advice is updated.