



19th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Principal's Update: Week 5, w/c 20.4.2020

I hope that everyone enjoyed the sunshine over the Easter break, even if the holidays were somewhat different to usual. I have enjoyed seeing examples on Twitter of students being active and creative whilst at home. Hopefully, this time will lead to some new hobbies and to a wider perspective of the love of learning.

Principal's Assembly

This week, I would have been welcoming students and staff back to the Collegiate for the start of the summer term. Whilst we remain apart, I cannot do that in person, but I have prepared an assembly for students which I shall send to them directly – please encourage them to sign-in to Google Classroom and watch it.

Home Learning, Years 7-10 & Year 12

This will now be resumed via Google Classroom, as before. Lessons will be set for 8.00am each day so that students do not need to keep coming back to a computer several times. We hope that this will help families where siblings are sharing a computer and will also allow families to be more flexible with their time. Mrs Turner, Head of Education at The Collegiate Trust, has prepared some great advice to parents for [Supporting Home Learning](#) – nothing that will require any particular subject knowledge or teaching expertise, just some useful tips which I hope you will find useful. In addition, the Department for Education has put together a list of [online learning resources](#) for home education, designed to supplement rather than replace the planned curriculum.

Home Learning, Year 11 & Year 13

Mr Smith, Headteacher of College VI, has written to students in [Year 11](#) & [Year 13](#) today to advise them on how Home Learning is now changing for them. Year 11 students should now move on to *College VI Pre-Course Learning* and Year 13 students are being supported in their preparation for higher education. Of course, a minority of students in Years 11 & 13 for whom these resources will be less relevant are welcome to engage with them anyway, or they may wish to prepare for alternative next steps in other ways. Without public exams to prepare for, there is an unexpected but valuable opportunity to engage in wider learning, outside of the confines of any particular exam specification or set curriculum, in order to best prepare for the next stage of education, training or employment.

Centre Assessment Grades

Further to my letter to Year 11 & Year 13 students on 3rd April 2020, teachers are now engaged in the process of determining *Centre Assessment Grades* and rankings, as required by Ofqual. This [useful video](#) has been produced to help explain the process to students. Two very important points to emphasise: (i) students are not required to do any further work now to support this process, and (ii) the grades and rankings that we will submit must remain **confidential** – teachers or other members of staff must not be asked by students or parents to share any of this information and there must be no “lobbying”! I assure you that we will undertake these processes thoroughly and fairly – we are determined to ensure that every student should be awarded the grade that he/she deserves in every subject. The Secretary of State has now confirmed that results will be published on the scheduled results days this summer: A Levels on 13th August 2020 and GCSEs on 20th August 2020.

Year 10 GCSE RE

In my letter to Year 10 students on 3rd April 2020, I shared Ofqual's guidance which indicated their proposal that exam boards would not award grades to Year 10 students this summer. Following representations received, I am pleased to see that **Ofqual has changed its view** and is now consulting on its proposal to issue grades to students in Year 10 who were due to sit an exam this summer. This is good news and, if confirmed, will mean that Year 10 students will be awarded a grade in GCSE RE this year, as we had hoped. I am strongly in favour of this proposal and would encourage parents and students to respond positively too; the consultation is open until 29th April 2020 and can be found [here](#).

Internal Exams & Reports

In light of school closure, we will need to make some changes to our planned schedule of internal exams and reports. We have already communicated the cancellation of Year 8 exams that were scheduled for this week and we shall now also cancel all other internal exams that were scheduled for this term. Should the Collegiate re-open at some point this term, we shall *consider* the possibility of rescheduling, prioritising Year 10 and Year 12 who are midway through their courses, if appropriate. However, we recognise that formal assessment of this nature, either during or immediately after a prolonged period of Home Learning, would have little value and does not need to be a priority at this time. Similarly, detailed reports relating to a period of Home Learning would not be worthwhile and so we are not planning on including performance data with Tutor Reports, which will be published as planned on 7th May 2020 for Year 11 and 10th July 2020 for Years 7-10.

Wellbeing & Mental Health

Whilst Home Learning is an important part of maintaining a good routine and keeping the brain active, staying happy and healthy must remain our priority. Before Easter, Tutors shared a wellbeing resource with students entitled, "[Looking After Yourself](#)" – parents may find it helpful to refer to it, as well. In addition, the Department for Education has published [guidance for parents](#) on supporting mental health and wellbeing at this time. Tutors will resume their weekly telephone calls this week; please do let us know if you have any particular concerns.

Website

We are continuing to keep our website up-to-date with copies of all the letters which are being sent. In addition, we have created a page called [School Closure](#) under the Parents tab which contains copies of other documents which might be helpful during this period.

And finally...

Over the last couple of weeks, there has been much speculation as to when schools might reopen. At this stage, we know that the current measures, introduced on 23rd March 2020, will remain for at least three more weeks. It is possible that schools might begin to reopen later this term, but we do not know that for sure. What we are doing in the meantime is trying to ensure that our students and staff are well-supported as they adjust to a very different way of living and working. At the same time, we are planning our return, whenever that may be, and all that will be necessary to *repair, rebuild* and *recover* our outstanding school. With veterans like [99 year old Captain Tom Moore](#) to inspire us, surely we should feel emboldened to overcome the challenges that the coming weeks will bring, for he is a reminder of the power of determination and the reality of each and every one of us being in this together.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dey
Principal