



26 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have seen the academic “face to face” rollout to our Year 10 students whereby they have been able to take part in some core subject consolidation work, this work coupled to our Google Classroom on-line learning schedule. Students have responded well and having spoken with a large number of those on site many have welcomed the return to school. Of course, the work on Google Classrooms provides focused learning experiences for all our year groups in an easy to follow, structured manner and it has been very well received by parents and carers. As we take feedback from parents, carers and students the work on this platform will be adjusted to support them, particularly those who are finding it a struggle to keep up with the work. We realise that everyone is in different situations with regard to access and time.

The development of voice over lessons led by our German department some months ago has been a great success and continues to offer students relevant and engaging lessons but with the added security of their teachers’ voices supporting learning.

I am also pleased that the student interaction with staff has mushroomed through the feedback dialogue of Google Classroom. As a school, we will continue to use and develop effective methods of on-line study and feedback that we can trust, leaving gimmicks and unreliable methods to others.

We are also in our third week of the change of focus for our Key Worker students. Initially government made it clear that the provision was childcare and thus a teaching approach was not necessary. As the on-line offer has been further developed all students are now working from their work banks on Google Classrooms. The structure and nature of the work is helping focus these young minds back towards study and routine. Over the coming week we will be collating information regarding engagement with the learning platform and as necessary we will be making contact with you if we have any concerns.

Thank you for the positive responses to our Form Tutors phoning home to speak with parents, carers and students. I know staff were very pleased with your responses and I am pleased that many, many of you who have contacted me feel the same way. ***However, if you feel you would like to speak with us again about anything to do with your child please email their House Progress Manager directly so that they can arrange for a telephone call to be set up with you.***



Last week I updated parents and carers on the position with regard to free digital devices. I can now confirm that we have been informed by Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority that we can now order those to be allocated to Y10 students that qualify. When I have further information I will ensure you are fully updated.

A message from our Chairs of Governors

The full governing body of The Whitby High School met this week both on site and via Microsoft Teams.

We would like to thank all staff for keeping The Whitby High School operating through this difficult time for Key workers and vulnerable children and for successfully extending the opening to Year 10 and 12 students from 15 June 2020. We would also like to thank parents, carers and students for your cooperation and support too.

We will continue our involvement and support of Mr Heeley and the staff through regular meetings as they plan for September 2020. We will of course ensure all parties are kept informed.



Mrs Carole Hibbert
Co-Chair of Governors



Angela Claydon
Co-Chair of Governors

Google Classroom

The move over to Google Classroom continues to be very positive one for the majority of our students in terms of organising and planning their work. We recognise that not everyone was able to access Google Classroom immediately and this means that assignments have built up for some. On the basis of this, Y7-10 will find fewer assignments set next week to allow for some catching up to happen. Those who are behind should aim to complete the tasks set and additional ones each day to make progress on their build up. Those who are on track can complete more of the optional 'Creative' projects in Y7-9 or can do additional study using our resources on Seneca if they wish. There are 17 'core' tasks per week for Y7-9, 18 for Y10 and 15/20 (depending on the number of courses studied) for Y12.

The Guardian Email Summaries will continue to be sent each Friday afternoon. This is an automatic function of Google Classroom so we are not able to configure the format of the emails. They are very detailed documents but hopefully give you a good understanding of where your son/daughter is up to. Please also remember that you can access Google Classroom from more than one device at a time, if you want to have a 'live' understanding of what your son/daughter is doing on Google Classroom they can log in on your device and show you.

Support for young people through YOUTH FED

Youth Fed is a local organisation that exists to help young people. In these difficult times they could be an invaluable resource to them.

Youth Fed are offering free online courses on many topics for 13 to 25 year olds which will be of interest to them:

'During lockdown, more than ever before, here at Youth Fed we have seen a requirement to find new ways to support young people remotely. Whether that's help to keep you occupied, support you with understanding Covid-19, offer ways to build new skills, help you to plan your future or just to be there to reach out to'.

The courses have been specifically designed to provide support during lockdown and beyond. There are also online games, quizzes and daily challenges, where young people have the opportunity to take part and compete in order to win prizes.

Please view their website to find out more [Youthfed.org.uk](https://youthfed.org.uk)

DfE Updates

You may be aware that in the recent government briefing the Prime Minister announced that children in England are to benefit from free meals and activities during summer 2020: I am unsure if this will form part of the government's £1 billion COVID-19 catch-up plan to tackle impact of lost teaching time. At present I have very little information about this but do know that Edsential have been approved to plan, develop and deliver the summer activities for Cheshire West and Chester. For further information, please follow the link below

[Thousands of children to benefit from free meals and activities](#)

Staying Safe outside your home

The latest staying safe outside your home guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

Keeping your child safe on-line

Changes have been made to the advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The main changes relate to information available on the Apps to help your child stay safe on-line.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): keeping children safe online](#) – updated 25 June

Mental Health for Children Returning to Schools

Please find below additional NHS mental health advice to parents/carers for children returning to school.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/06/top-nhs-doctor-issues-advice-for-children-going-back-to-school/>

Contact with School

It is important that through these difficult times we keep communication between students and school open. I would like to stress again that if students are struggling or have any concerns generally or about their work, they should be keeping in touch with their Form Tutors, HPMs and teachers through emails or contacting school generally.

As parents/carers, we would like to ask you to inform us of anything that you think is important particularly with regards to your child's wellbeing. We need to have an overview about such things as **bereavements, whether Covid-19 related or not** plus things that may have happened over the Lockdown that you believe we should be aware of. Please continue to inform House Progress Managers so that appropriate support can be put in place on their return to school.

Please can I remind you that when emailing school about specific information relating to your child, **we will not respond to emails sent from a company or business email address**. We will only respond to specific child related queries that come to us from a personal email address related to that child. I am sure that you will appreciate that by responding to an employer based email address this could breach GDPR regulations and safeguarding best practice – potentially putting your child at risk.

Careers

Cheshire College South and West

On 2nd and 3rd July the college will be offering their Secondary College event to Year 10. The event aims to get Year 10 thinking about the choices they have at the end of year 11. As this will be online it is available to all year 10 and their parents / carers. The Secondary College is a chance to virtually visit college, meet staff, find out about courses and see the facilities on offer.

College will be sending more information, a link and a password for our students in week commencing 29th June Please look out for this information. I will send it to students' school email accounts.

Careers Adviser

Paula Owens will be in The Whitby High school on 2nd July. At the moment all her telephone appointment slots for that day are taken and there is also have a waiting list. Mrs Connor will be sending out appointment slots to school emails on afternoon of Friday 26th to students who have asked to speak to Paula. Please ask your child to check if they have requested an appointment.. Paula is next due 'in' school on 9th July. If you would like to speak to her please let Miss Connor know, she will allocate appointments and email students the details as soon as she can. We only have two more days of Paula's time so please let Miss Connor know as soon as possible pleaseby emailing her on.

aconnor@whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk

Coronavirus testing eligibility and how test and testing kits work

Guidance on coronavirus testing, including who is eligible for a test, how to get tested and the different types of test available can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has published guidance for members of the public and patients about coronavirus tests and testing kits, including information on the different types of tests available and how they work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-tests-and-testing-kits-for-coronavirus-covid-19-work>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.

Updated handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

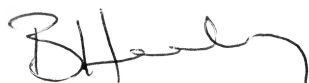
The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. E-Bug has published posters on hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes, to display in bathrooms, classrooms and shared spaces.

The hand and respiratory hygiene posters and other educational resources can be found here: <https://e-bug.eu>

I hope that you are all well and thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr B Heeley