

Dear parents,

I hope you have all had an opportunity for some relaxation and family time during the last 2 weeks, and are ready for the start of the summer term. I appreciate that we are all living through an incredibly challenging time. In addition to the increasing impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on more and more families, we are now adjusting to an extended period of Stay at Home rules.

You may be aware that there has been some speculation in the media today about possible plans to end the lockdown and for school to begin to re-open. Please be assured that this was as much news to me as it was to you, and Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, tweeted this morning: "No decision has been made on when we will reopen schools. I can reassure schools and parents that they will only reopen when the scientific advice indicates it is the right time to do so." We are of course starting to consider how we may operate once it is time to start re-opening, but please be assured that we will always communicate any information that we are aware of to you, and that the health and safety of our school community will always be the top priority. In the meantime, our plans for the first half of the summer term assume that we will be running a Stay at Home school model.

As a school community we continue to be guided by our INSPIRE values and the principles of the Every Child Matters Agenda.



The absolute priority is your child and family's health, safety and wellbeing. We are here to support you by:

- 1) Providing an alternative to Free School Meals for families who qualify or need additional support – please contact studentsupport@whptrust.org for more information.
- 2) Providing supervision for children of critical workers and children who need additional support – please contact white@whptrust.org to book provision or get further information. From Monday 20th April our supervision provision is on the Alderman White site.
- 3) Providing telephone mentoring support to students – please contact your child's tutor or Progress Leader if you require any additional support.

Whilst we are doing our best to keep in touch with every child and family, as always please do make us aware of any difficulties or family circumstances that affect your child's wellbeing.

How to contact school

- The school site remains closed to anyone not attending supervision by prior arrangement.
- The school office is open Monday to Friday 8am – 4pm (0115 917 0424 or white@whptrust.org)
- You or your child can email your child's tutor, or Progress Leader

- Your child can ask a question of a teacher on their google classroom – please allow time for a reply as teachers may be unwell, or have caring commitments
- If you need to contact our safeguarding team, speak to someone urgently, or you have not had a reply after 2 working days, please contact studentsupport@whptrust.org.

The Alderman White Stay at Home Curriculum

As the “lockdown” enters week 5, establishing routines that allow the normality of school activities and routines, even remotely, will support wellbeing for both students. We have taken on board feedback from staff, parents and students in planning our curriculum and learning provision for the next half term.

We recognise that the experience of working at home is very intensive for our students and that fewer hours of work are needed than when they are at school. It is expected that students in Year 7-9 should spend 2-4 hours per day and students in Year 10-11 should spend 3-5 hours per day Monday – Friday on school work. If your child is not getting anywhere near completing the core tasks set in this time, please contact your child’s tutor or Progress Leader.

Student work will be set through a google classroom (or where this was already in place, a Microsoft Team). Google classroom codes are available on our Stay at Home webpage. Your child should also join their year group and tutor group google classroom. <https://aldermanwhite.school/stay-at-home-school>

Each year group have a curriculum model which indicates the number of core (compulsory) tasks they should be completing for each subject each week and the optional challenge tasks that will be made available. These are attached, on our Stay at Home webpage and in the year group Google classrooms. Year 7-10 also have a suggested timetable as well as a blank copy of the timetable if you would prefer to change things around and create your own timetable based on the curriculum model. We may also signpost optional resources and activities that your child could engage with.

As you know, we place a strong emphasis on personal development and enrichment. Part of the opportunity of Stay at Home school is to learn different things or learn in a different way. There may be times when school work cannot be a priority for your child and family and it is fine for you to make this decision. There is a huge amount that they can learn from and with you during this time through conversation, cooking, going on walks, creative activities and DIY, and our Stay at Home school curriculum should leave plenty of time for these activities as well as downtime for relaxation and remotely socialising with friends.

Please do refer to the Stay at Home School page of our website which provides guidance, advice and resources. Remember that:

- We do not expect you to home educate your child
- Mistakes are positively encouraged and can be discussed as part of the learning process.
- Our students are encouraged to be independent learners so remind them to use a “Brain – Book – Buddy – Boss” approach, as they would in a classroom.

Please see the FAQ document on our Stay at Home webpage and sent out before the holidays if you would like more guidance on work expectations or have any unanswered questions. If you discover a great online resource, or one that you would like some advice about, please do email the link to mandy.holling@whptrust.org so that we can explore it and share it with others.

We know that for some of our students accessing school learning at home is incredibly challenging. We are keen to work with you to support and address any issues – please contact your child’s tutor or Progress Leader in the first instance if you need support with this.

Please remember to contact helpdesk@whptrust.org for IT support. If your child does not have access to a laptop, Chromebook, pc or tablet at home for several hours a day, or you do not currently have WIFI, please contact your child’s Progress Leader at school (email addresses are on our Stay at Home webpage). We have a number of devices that we can loan to you.

“Live” Lessons and Mentoring

Over the past few weeks many staff have used video conferencing and meeting for the first time. We are working to increase our offer of lessons and also mentoring support and parent / student meetings by video conference (largely through Microsoft Teams and Google Meet). We would like to have your agreement for your child to participate in “live lessons”. You should receive a separate My Ed message which will explain how to respond to this. It would be appreciated if you could reply to this as soon as possible after you receive it. Where students are not taking part in “live lessons” resources will be provided in google classroom in the usual way. In the first instance, we are trialling and developing our skills at running live lessons with Year 10 and 11.

Virtual Enrichment

Please do get involved by watching the clips shared on our YouTube channel. These are a great reminder of the talent and commitment of our school community and are really uplifting to watch! www.youtube.com/channel/UC1eGZTUdyhphlAjw9CNWGSg. Students involved in Stay at Home Choir, Orchestra and Swing Band should email their recordings as soon as possible so the pieces can be produced. Any student interested in joining our Stay at Home Choir should email Mr. Wedgeworth at cameron.wedgeworth@whptrust.org. Information will be provided about instrumental lessons for the summer term will be provided as soon as it is available.

The Summer Term Calendar

We are in the process of updating our summer term calendar. Wherever possible we want to find ways of running events and activities remotely or in a different form, or postponing rather than cancelling events and activities that students have been looking forward to.

We are intending to run Year 10 Progress Exams and Year 9 Progress Exams in English, Maths and Science in the second half of the summer term, even if students have to take these exams at home. We are going to bring forward the timing of the Year 10 exams slightly so that teachers can write the postponed Year 10 reports after these exams have been completed and marked, and parents will receive Year 10 reports before the end of term. Year 9 exam results will also be published to students and parents. As we had to postpone our Year 7 Parents Evening last term, we are going to bring forward our Year 7 reports and hope to publish these before half term if possible. We will organize a Parents Evening for this year group as soon as it is safe and meaningful to do so.

We have already promised our wonderful Stay at Home Team 2020 Year 11s that they WILL have a Leavers Assembly and Prom if they wish to, even if these are reunion events next year. We are putting in place contingency plans to ensure that our current Duke of Edinburgh can complete their Bronze and Silver expeditions as soon as it is safe and possible for them to do so. Of course, it is going to be some time before we can arrange or book residential or overseas trips, but when we are able to do so our priority will be rearranging the Paris 2020 trips for students who still wish to go.

Where you have paid money for an event or activity, we will contact you directly with arrangements for refunding your payment where possible and appropriate, or putting money already paid towards the rearranged event in the future.

We are currently looking at a remote format for Cabaret and our Summer Concert assuming that these are not able to go ahead in their usual way, and we are considering possible formats for Graduation, or an alternative way of celebrating the many achievements of our students this year both before and since lockdown.

Please help your child to remember that hope is stronger than fear by understanding social distancing and personal hygiene and doing what they can to keep themselves and others safe (taking positive action); spending time doing things they enjoy and finding the positives in lockdown, and supporting others; and talking about their worries and concerns. Please also ensure that you are looking after yourselves and getting any support that you need. If there is anything you need us to help with, including finding and signposting support for you and your family, please do not hesitate to ask.

As always, we look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming term.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. A Mellors
Headteacher

