



# Parent/Carer Update 23-3-20



I just wanted to write to wish you all the best as you start to tackle the unusual experience of supporting your children with extended home learning.

The first thing I would say is that you have to look after yourselves, as well as the youngsters in the household. This is going to be mentally challenging for everyone and there are going to be times when it will be tempting to give in and let them watch Netflix for 16 hours non-stop!

At the risk of offering some obvious advice:

- It's OK to let children get bored – they don't need to be kept entertained at all times and will be at their most thoughtful and creative if they are allowed some space to do so.
- You will need to limit access to phones/games consoles etc. if they are showing any reluctance to work. Blame the school if you have to!
- Don't jump as soon as your child says they can't do something. They might need some help eventually but let them try to work it out for themselves first or ask a friend.
- Praise effort and not achievement. Even if you think a piece of work isn't perfect, give your child plenty of fuss for having a good go.

## Collection of Exercise Books/Kit/Equipment/Musical Instruments

Although it will all still be here when the school reopens, we understand that some students are anxious to collect various items, especially those in Years 9 and 10 who were unable to do so at the end of last week. In the first instance, we are going to open the school to allow belongings to be collected as follows:

Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9	3.45pm – 5.00pm

During these times, students can come into school to clear lockers and collect any other items. Staff have been asked to leave exercise books in classrooms in very obvious locations. All rooms will be open.

- Please follow social-distancing rules and don't congregate. If somebody else is in a room then wait until they have left.
- Students must leave rooms in good order – there will be no supervision and scattering books all over the place will cause serious problems for others.
- If they can't find an exercise book then don't spend too long looking for it. Work can be done elsewhere and revision materials can be put together from other sources.

## **Keeping on Top of Work**

Having seen for myself today the speed with which staff have been setting work, it could be very easy for students to get confused about what it is they need to do. Here are some tips that might help:

- Do one activity at a time and try to keep to the suggested time limit.
- Make sure they do a mixture of different subjects during the day, including those that aren't necessarily their favourites.
- Once an activity is done, mark it as completed on ClassCharts – this makes it much easier to see what work is left. It also allows staff to see how classes are progressing with the work.

## **Staff Emails**

Apologies but there was a mistake with one of the staff emails sent out at the end of last week. Mrs Kennedy, from the DT faculty, has the email [rvkennedy@warnefordschool.org](mailto:rvkennedy@warnefordschool.org)

I will be keeping in contact over the coming weeks but only where I feel there is something worth passing on. If you have any queries that you feel might be beneficial for all parents to know the answer to then please let me know.

Best wishes



Andy Steele  
Headteacher