



*From J M Gilbert BSc MBA MRSC, Deputy Head (Academic)*

Dear Parents and Guardians

17 March 2020

I write to provide further information regarding the College's planned actions should we find ourselves in a situation in which the school is closed, cannot operate normally owing to staff absence, or there being significant numbers of pupils absent due to restrictions imposed upon them or their families as a consequence of Covid-19.

As was widely reported yesterday, the prime minister confirmed that, for the time being, schools are to remain open and continue to function as normally as circumstances allow. We must acknowledge, however, that with the rate of escalation seen in recent days the probability of disruption has been heightened and is likely to continue to do so as events unfold in the weeks ahead. With the threat of self-isolation in boarding houses, the headmaster has, this afternoon, advised boarding pupils to return to their families or guardians as soon as possible.

As we look ahead to possible disruption beyond the Easter break, please be assured that we have been busy making preparations to be ready to deliver academic lessons / guidance remotely in the event of the College's being closed, or there being considerable numbers of pupils absent. Our approach will be scaffolded by [REDACTED] which will be the go-to place for all pupils to receive instruction on the tasks they are expected to do. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] can be accessed from any internet-enabled device, it provides the opportunity for teachers to upload relevant links / documents, it gives teachers insights into how the pupils are engaging with the tasks they have been set, and it also gives you, as parents or guardians, visibility of those activities. If you have yet to log in to [REDACTED] [REDACTED], you can do so by navigating to [REDACTED]

Beneath [REDACTED] framework for assigning activities and work, departments are ready to deliver those tasks through a variety of subject-oriented platforms, all of which will be familiar to your child's usual way of working. Your child will also have access to their email and other productivity tools through their school Microsoft Office 365 account, full access to their College desktops (and specialist software) through [REDACTED], and a host of other useful platforms to keep them up to speed including [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], among others. The attached presentation provides a summary provided to the pupils of how to access these useful online tools.

I am acutely aware that the current circumstances are particularly worrying for those sitting public exams this summer. We are in daily communication with, and taking direction from, Ofqual, the DfE, and the examination boards. Current guidance is that schools should plan to conduct the summer exams as normal. If there is a need for any enforced disruption, this will of course produce a need for a nationally coordinated solution. We will communicate the College's response to any as yet unseen circumstances as soon as we are able.

I hope that the above provides reassurance that, if things become significantly worse, the College is ready to maintain its academic provision for your daughter or son in these difficult times.

With best wishes

Jonny Gilbert

Deputy Head (Academic)