



DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | HONESTY

Dear Parent/Carer

We have spent the day planning to ensure that what we can provide as a school in this difficult time is in line with Government expectations and our own continued ambitions for our students.

I have continued to have thoughts for our Year 11 and Year 13 students and have awaited news on how their grades will be decided this year. Some details are now available from the Government here and further details are promised.

I draw your attention to the online form regarding key worker status sent earlier today. This must be completed if you believe your child will need to attend school from Monday. Thank you to those who responded so quickly to this already. This has helped inform our planning.

The Year 9 options process continues as planned. The deadline to return the online form remains at Monday, 30th March.

Staff have been asked to prepare work for students to do from Monday in accordance with the normal timetable and as mentioned in my previous communications home. We encourage students to quickly get into this new mode of working during term time. We know it will not be easy but please encourage them to build a structure to their day. With this in mind and further guidance from the Government I must emphasise the importance of our students remaining at home to complete the work they are set and to take on board the social distancing guidance at all times. This is a national effort and people of all ages are being asked to do this.

At this difficult time, looking after everybody has got to be the top priority. To support this we have placed on our website a Mental Health and Wellbeing section. You will find this if you go to the Parents area and scroll down. We will continue to add to this in due course. We would also emphasise the importance of young people, whilst not necessarily being able to socialise in the ways they normally would, finding ways to stay in touch with each other and their wider family and friends networks.

We are aware that with students now learning at home there will possibly be an impact on household budgets (e.g. paper, printing etc). We are considering this and ways to support using school resources and other ideas.

We have been actively investigating how we can provide for children who would normally be able to claim a Free School Meal but who are not attending school. We will have a plan in place early next week.

Thank you again for your warm words of encouragement and support over the past week. They make a big difference to us all. I wish you and your families well at this very difficult time and I will be in touch again next week with a further update.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey
Head Teacher