



# DARRICK WOOD SCHOOL

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | HONESTY

Dear Parent/Carer

We have moved into uncharted territory from today and no doubt despite all of our best efforts in using the technology to find creative ways to teach and to learn there will be issues as we all get used to our new reality. Thank you for your support and patience. We are operating on a skeleton staff as requested by the Department for Education and are not always able to answer every email we receive currently. I am therefore trying to capture some of the current issues in my updates to parents. We are aware that Bromcom and other systems are struggling to cope with the unprecedented national demand. Hopefully things will improve in time.

Some parents have contacted us worried that it can be quite overwhelming for children to see a long list of activities to complete. Most normally have 25 separate lessons through the school week but no doubt seeing all of this at once can be troubling. We are aware not all work set will be completed within the timeframe set and students and staff need some flexibility. The children should try to make sure they pace themselves, have lots of breaks and not worry overly if something is not done until after a deadline. Their teachers will understand. I have been advising staff to be careful when setting work that it does not only involve working on a computer screen and to be aware that not all work will be completed by all students at the same time. The number one issue here is for no one to feel overwhelmed whilst we are still getting used to this new way of working.

The government has now been very clear in that everyone should be practising social distancing and our students should therefore be at home and encouraged to stay in touch with each other by phone and online and not by meeting up. They should do their best to complete the work we set during the school day.

Some parents and students have been contacting their teachers with regards to Year 11 and Year 13 grades. We still do not have enough detail about how the predicted grade system will work. I politely request that no further communication with teachers about this occurs. I have instructed teachers not to respond to requests to discuss grades. We do not want to jeopardise the process once the detailed guidance has been published.

We are now very close to finalising a system to ensure provision for those entitled to Free School Meals. Parents of those entitled to Free School Meals will be receiving a text and/or email from a company called Wonde. Please follow the instructions to receive a digital voucher which can be used to purchase goods from four different supermarkets.

I will write again with further updates in due course.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey  
Head Teacher