

March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Coronavirus Closure**

You will be aware from national reports that all schools are closing as the Government deploys its virus management strategy. Clearly, the closure of the school will present challenges for all involved as we endeavour to support students as best as we can.

The Local Authority has made arrangements for families in receipt of free school meals. We have communicated by letter or email the details of this to all our affected families. There is also a Local Authority response to the Government's call for schools to support vulnerable children and those children of Key Workers who require support. However, we will be providing some support for those key groups over the next week until the Local Authority arrangements begin. This will be sent in a separate communication.

Our arrangements are as follows:

#### **Students in Years 7-10 and Year 12**

- All students will be set work of a time length equivalent to the usual amount of teaching time usually received each week
- Work will be sent out to students via Show My Homework and also available via the school website. Work will be set every Monday.

#### **Students in Year 11 and 13**

- We are in the process of putting together reading lists for students linked to the subjects they may want to do next. Reading these texts will prepare them in advance for their new courses at Sixth Form or University in September. These will be available on Show My Homework and our website in the next few days. We have also produced a guide to some activities which will improve study skills and give more information about university sources.

#### **The type of work to be set:**

The type of work will vary between subjects and will include:

- Answering past examination questions
- Reading information and answering questions
- Making notes from sources
- Completing activity sheets and work sheets that are available by Show My Homework

#### **How will work be set?**

Methods will include:

- Work sheets and other documents on show my homework
- Links to web sites
- Work set on GCSEPod. (This is new to the school and instructions will be available by the school website)
- Use of other packages familiar to students in their subject lessons such as Maths Watch

Should students have queries about the work set, they should contact their teacher using Show My Homework, who will aim to respond within 24 hours on normal school days.

#### **Preparation**

Teachers have been given time to make preparations and collate resources for students to follow. We had hoped to have more time, but the closure this week has brought things forward significantly. This means that some work will be posted at the start of next week.

### **Parental support**

We fully appreciate that school closures would bring significant challenges to all involved. Support from parents is greatly appreciated and we would urge parents to consider putting in place suitable routines and arrangements for students that would allow them to complete the work set in the very best environment possible. We are aware that access to computers and printing can be an issue but ask that all parents try to make what provision they can so that students can access the work throughout a period of closure. Many of the resources that are to be used can be accessed using a variety of other means such as phones, tablets etc.

### **Exam closure – GCSE and A Levels**

Exams will not take place in May and June of this year and that the Government would agree a way which allows that students are not penalised by this. There is no guidance at time of writing but we will let you know as soon as we know any more.

### **Expectations during closure**

#### **Students are expected to:**

- Each day access Show My Homework and complete the work for that day.
- Access the school website to be kept up to date with any developments.
- To undertake self-study using GCSEPod, My Maths etc

#### **Parents are expected to:**

- Access the school website to be kept up to date with any developments.
- Ensure that their child is accessing Show My Homework and is completing all work each day.

### **Well Being and E-Safety**

Students may struggle with being isolated from their friends over the coming weeks and we would urge them to utilise the organisations and resources list we have published on our website.

### **Safeguarding**

If you have an urgent safeguarding concern during school closure, please contact Careline on 0151 233 3700. Please email [safeguarding@hollylodge.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@hollylodge.liverpool.sch.uk). If you require further information please see the organisations and resources list we have published on our website.

### **Contacting School**

It is unclear if school will be open to contact by telephone at this point. If you need to contact school, please email via [hollylodge@hollylodge.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:hollylodge@hollylodge.liverpool.sch.uk). This email address will be monitored on a daily basis.

### **Keeping You Informed**

We will update our website on a regular basis with news and other information. Please check it regularly on [www.hollylodge.liverpool.sch.uk](http://www.hollylodge.liverpool.sch.uk). We will also continue to use ParentMail to send letters and other information.

As soon as we have any further communication we will share it with you. Thank you for your continued support in these difficult times and we hope to be back up and running as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr A Keen**  
**Headteacher**