

23rd March 2020

Dear Parent, Carers and Students,

I am writing to thank you for your support and understanding over the past few weeks, especially in the latter part of last week, which was especially challenging given the uncertainty over the situation and the pace at which we had to put a myriad of arrangements into place.

Friday, in particular was a day in which the entire school community pulled together. We were all very proud of how understanding and well-behaved the pupils were. Year 11 and Year 13 pupils in particular conducted themselves with maturity and dignity amidst what must be a very confusing and frustrating situation for them.

Our priority over the coming weeks will be to try to maintain a sense of community and purpose in our new 'online school' for all pupils whilst ensuring that the any of our children and families who need support receive it. Year 11 and Year 13 must also ensure that they continue to build a portfolio of work in each GCSE / A Level subject that they are studying in order to provide evidence to support the claiming of grades, should this be required. Individual subject teachers will provide guidance as to what and how much is needed.

Having spent the first weekend of 'social distancing' at home with my 3 children, I know how important it will be to keep them occupied and to find creative ways to tire them out over the coming weeks! In addition to the online learning resources that we will be providing within a 'timetable' of activities, there are a wide range of resources that can be drawn upon, including (but by no means limited to – there are 1000s more appearing daily):

- Joe Wicks' "P.E. With Joe" daily workout for kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6r99N3kXME>
- The Crash Course – small, interactive courses for kids about a wide range of topics <https://thecrashcourse.com>
- A 20 Hour Course in British Sign Language, which is free for full-time students or 'pay what you can' for everyone else <https://www.british-sign.co.uk/learn-online-british-sign-language-course/>
- Sheffield Libraries offer free 'E-borrowing' of books, magazines, comics and audiobooks <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/libraries-archives/the-elibrary>

Thank you to those 'key worker' parents who contacted us last week. Arrangements are now in place for Sheffield Park and Sheffield Springs Academies to offer a joint provision, beginning today, which is for the children of key workers and children from other vulnerable groups. This is strictly limited to the children for whom we have had contact with parents and have agreed to allow them to attend. Government advice is that "wherever possible, children should be at home" and therefore **all other pupils should remain at home.**

A reminder to those parents who have pre-booked the collection of a free school meal that these can be collected from the school reception at SHEFFIELD PARK ACADEMY daily between Monday 23rd March and Friday 27th March. If your child is eligible and you have not yet taken up this offer, you can still do so by emailing info@sheffieldparkacademy.org.

Sheffield Park Academy
Beaumont Road North
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f 0114 2659835

e info@sheffieldparkacademy.org
www.sheffieldpark-academy.org

Principal: Mrs D. McShane

Once we are in receipt of further information about the government's longer-term plans for the provision of free school meals or vouchers in lieu of free school meals we will write to you to let you know the details.

All of the information about our home learning programme, access to the home learning resources, 'how to log in' and user guides to Office 365 and Microsoft Teams can be found at:
Sheffield Park Academy <https://www.sheffieldpark-academy.org/learning-from-home>

Please be aware that demand for the internet is going to go up exponentially over the next few days, with particular strain placed on home learning platforms such as Microsoft Teams. It is expected that the service might be slow or that the websites may go down for periods of time so please just keep trying.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy time at home. If there is anything that we can support with or if you need to discuss any aspect of the provision we have put in place or matters relating to your child, we are still here for you and will be working every day, even if it is at a distance.

Stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Mr C. Dillon
Executive Principal

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