



WOODBROOK VALE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Carers,

What a week for news and announcements!

I hope you are all enjoying your 'unlimited' exercise and the ability to meet one person, not in your household, outdoors. Perhaps you have also been to a garden centre and bought your geraniums or driven to the countryside. Isn't it interesting how we are grateful for any small change at this time?

The one thing I still do not have any detail on however, is what "some face to face with Year 10 students *after* 1st June" means. The government have made announcements on the TV but the DfE have not provided any examples of *how much* face to face, or *how many* face to face, or indeed when or how to make *any* face to face, safe. Neither have they consulted with the teaching unions on any of the announcements. Furthermore, they have said that if the easing of the lockdown causes a spike in the Reproductive rate of the virus (R) then these changes will not happen. Against that backdrop, it is hard to plan. I can tell you we have a full Health and Safety Consultation and Risk Assessment Process in place. We will only proceed when we are confident we can mitigate the risks, but we do desperately want to see our students. As I said last week, if you ask any of our staff, the highlight of their week is the day when they are on the rota to be in school.

Teaching

In the background, we are aiming to develop Google Classrooms so that we will have a way to collect in work from Year 10 in the first instance and have that two-way flow between teachers and students. It would be easier to set up if we could see each Year 10 child, so we are hoping we might.

It looks highly unlikely that any of the other Secondary Year groups will be back before the summer.

Thank you to those parents and carers who have sent in examples of their children's Year 7 English work this week. Just a reminder we are back to Year 10 English Hand in next week. Submissions to PHayes@wbvs.co.uk

Please also remember that whilst students should not email their teachers directly as we cannot guarantee all teachers are well and able to reply, they should email office@wbvs.co.uk with any questions or worries and we will make sure they get the right support from the right person.

This week we undertook a check and over 85% of students are accessing work on G4S. This is a fantastic figure. The Senior Leadership Team will be contacting home for any student not currently accessing work on or offline or from whom we have not heard for two weeks, just to make sure everything is alright and to offer assistance.



Free School Meals

If you are in the position of receiving support via the FSM voucher scheme, Mrs Moors has asked me to explain she has done the orders in 3-week batches. This is good news and should make planning for shopping easier. It will also cover the half term break.

Safeguarding

The local authority have asked us to remind our families of the importance of internet safety. With our children spending a lot of time online, we should always be vigilant about potential risks to their safety. We have placed a document on the website under the Parent tab and Online Safety entitled 'DIGITAL SAFETY DURING COVID-19: Safeguarding from harmful influences online' It is quite hard hitting so pick your own moment to look at it. It does explore worst-case scenarios, but it is designed to make you consider safety in the round. For the most part, our children are better at keeping themselves safe online than we are!

CAMHS

We have also added a link to the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service on our Health and Well-being page under the parents tab. CAMHS are still working with young people despite the school closures.

Good news

We have 5 students across Year 9 and 10 who managed to graduate from the Scholar's Programme that we ran in conjunction with Cambridge University this year. Considering the constraints of the current situation, this is a remarkable achievement! I would like to both thank them and congratulate them. For me, they were the bringers of the light this week.

Finally, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies and warmth to those families going through difficult times and possibly bereavements. Never hesitate to contact us if you need help.

All my best regards,

Rachael Fraser
Headteacher