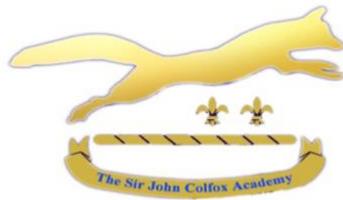


The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

28 April 2020

Dear Parents

I thought I would write to give you an update as we are now entering the sixth week of the school being closed.

I would like to thank you on behalf of all the school staff for all your help and support you have given your daughters and sons to complete the work. I realise that this is not an easy task and we have been getting used to setting work remotely, just as you have been supporting your child to complete this work.

We have been contacted by many parents thanking us for the work but also giving us some information about how it feels from your end. I want to say you are doing a brilliant job in difficult circumstances. What you and your child are doing is enough even if you cannot complete all the tasks. This is not the same as being in school so again well done for trying to get the work completed. For those students who want more work I would recommend BBC bitesize (www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) and Oak Academy (www.thenational.academy) where additional content can be found including video lessons and more interactive quizzes.

Some students are working for many hours and to help them structure their time some parents are creating timetables or providing some structure to the day. This might help them to organise the work in a more manageable way and help to fit around your homeworking pattern. If they are using Teams or other online platforms they should not spend more than an hour without a break, in fact when using screens all day they will be more tired than working from books, so may not be able to work for a whole day.

Please remember that they need regular breaks and other activities should be included. The students we have in school are doing Joe Wicks PE at 9.00am every morning, this is a great way to start the day and gets you ready to learn (although I am exhausted afterwards!). They also have a sporting activity at lunch time to help them focus in the afternoon.

We are currently looking at how we can make the work more manageable for you and your child, whether that is through Teams or through printed material for those who have not got access to the internet. This is particularly important now the work that is being set is new learning so we need to guide and support them more. The work set up to now has been to consolidate the learning they have done in school.

We hope to streamline the work so that it is clear how long each task should take so that once you have spent this much time on it you can hand it in even if not complete. We are also looking at reducing the number of tasks per week per subject at KS3 as this seems to be an issue. KS4 and 5 work will remain based on the number of lessons they have a week per subject as they seem to be coping with this better. We will be sending out a questionnaire to your child to answer to get more feedback, and we have asked Heads of Faculty to look across their areas. We hope with this, and your feedback, we can work together to make the experience work better for all of us.

Tutors will be making contact over the next few weeks to check in and see how things are going. We feel this is important so that you know we are still here for you and ready to support. We also are providing feedback directly through Teams to the work handed in and are available via email or from messages left on the answer machine.

We are still open and supporting Key worker children. The advice is that children are safer at home so we appreciate your continued support with this to protect your children, family and the staff at Colfox.

We have given all our goggles from Science and Technology to Bridport Hospital which we hope will help to protect them as they fight this terrible virus. I do not as yet know when we will be able to reopen and if this will be a partial or full opening. I will of course let you know as soon as I do. I hope that we get longer than the two days we had to prepare for the closure. I really hope that we can open in some way before September but we need to take the advice from Government and ensure that we do all we can to protect the NHS and all of our school community.

Take care of yourselves and your families and thank you for all your support in this difficult and challenging situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Shelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Adam Shelley
Headteacher