



Thursday, 7th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to an early headteacher's update due to tomorrow's VE Day bank holiday.

We have recently uploaded information from School Shop, the company that manages and supplies our uniform, to our website for incoming Y6 parents. The information provided by School Shop regarding how they are continuing to provide their services during the current lockdown may also be of interest to parents throughout the school. You can access this information via the 'About Us' section of the website and by selecting 'Transition to Year 7'.

As it is the 75th anniversary of VE Day tomorrow, we have endeavoured to promote this important event with our students - as we would have done had we been in school. Mrs Fox's excellent weekly bulletin has a VE Day theme (with help from the fantastic history department) and I have spoken about it in today's student broadcast as well as circulated some information directly to students. I heard someone say on the radio yesterday that the Second World War was won due to the resilience and determination of ordinary people: a comment that chimes strongly with the efforts being shown by many in 2020 too.

There is continued, and often unhelpful, speculation in the press about when schools will reopen. Firstly, I wish to make clear to you all that we have no greater insight into this than you do. We learned about school closures at the same time as the rest of the nation did, and anticipate the news about schools opening will be received in the same way. We have been promised, however, that we will be given sufficient notice to plan for reopening in order to provide you with the confidence you need to send your sons and daughters back. Along with the whole country, I eagerly await a more comprehensive update on Sunday, along with detailed guidance about how I can ensure your children and our staff are as safe as possible when they come back through the school gates. As soon as this information has been received and evaluated by my senior team, I will be in touch.

Finally, I am working my way through a number of positive telephone calls home for students from Y7 to Y12 recommended by the staff for working 'above and beyond'; what a pleasure it has been to talk to families, and students, about how they are coping with working from home. I am also in awe of many of you: frontline worker parents who have been separated from their children since the start of lockdown to protect them; parents who are juggling their own work as well as overseeing home schooling materials from more than one school; and parents who are employing a range of strategies to get their teenager to partake in just one daily walk! The list goes on. Everyone is doing an incredible job.

I hope you can differentiate this bank holiday weekend and perhaps enjoy a change of routine. Take care and we will be in touch next week.

Yours faithfully

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Headteacher

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