

1 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. The Government is expected to provide an update on 7 May about the process for re-opening the school. It is very difficult to imagine all the different scenarios but I am sure you agree that we really do need to find some kind of normality.

For all those parents who continue to work from home and are supporting their children with home schooling we really do appreciate it. I talk to many colleagues who are having to do the same and it can be very challenging working in this different way and my goodness don't they eat a lot when they are at home. I do feel for the children as I am sure by now they are wanting to be with their friends and socialise. I am certainly missing the sound of a normal school with all the hustle and bustle.

Safe and well checks/managing work

Staff continue to make vast numbers of phone calls home for all kinds of reasons hopefully parents have received contact where requested via email and telephone. If you have not had a phone call it might be because you have been in contact with a member of staff by phone/email already and we know all is well. If you have not received a call you may be on the list for the next round. It is pleasing to know that on the whole students are managing the work set considering the different levels of resources available to our students at home. Our reception is open daily if you feel you need to make a call. Otherwise the staff email addresses are on the website and you can contact the form tutor or subject tutor.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is a lot of information available about Mental Health and Wellbeing. This will occur at various levels and quite often can be self-managed with good support and guidance. We recently posted on our twitter account some information about self-referral to CAMHS. Our website has lots of help and guidance and on twitter we follow some excellent organisations. If there is something you need to make school aware of then please do contact the form tutor in the first instance who will try to help and if not, pass it on to the right person. For more serious concerns e.g. immediate safety then you would call the emergency services.

Child Bereavement

Sadly, we know that many families will be suffering bereavement. A vast number of our staff are currently undertaking training so we are able to support students. Below is a link to an excellent website. A particularly useful page is for support when you are not able to attend a funeral of a loved one.

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/pages/category/coronavirus>

Student work

In the last two weeks we have seen 3,065 different users, completing 15,392 sessions viewing over 55,056 subject pages. This is a tremendous effort, well done. Work continues to be uploaded.

Upcoming assessment for Year 9 and Year 10 – deadline 10 May

On Monday 4 May we will launch an assessment week for Year 9 and Year 10. On the learning activities page there will be a subject menu page for each assessment. It requires the student to read the instructions for each assessment carefully and then to send the completed assessment to the class teacher via email before the end of the school day on 10 May.

Student Survey

The students will be given the opportunity to complete a survey this week which will give us further information that will help us moving forward. More information to follow on the Learning Activities area.

Year 9 GCSE Options

Work is ongoing and we expect to inform parents and students of their options by the end of the week beginning 11 May. At this current time all courses that were offered are running but, as highlighted in the original letter, that is subject to change. We always have a much better understanding of staffing provision towards the end of May which allows us to make informed decisions for the coming year. Almost all subject leaders have been consulted where necessary about student suitability. This is particularly important, in for example, Computer Science and PE, two courses where a student would need to be carefully considered before acceptance based on being able to evidence their natural ability. We would look at whether that student has a proven track record of attitude to learning and progress data. This is to maximise success and enjoyment. It is particularly important to liaise with subject leaders where there are large numbers of students wishing to do a course and the group is too big. That said we do not envisage many problems.

Year 11

I hope you are coping well and can see some light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully you will be able to get out and about soon and enjoy your summer as you would have done. Your grades will be submitted to the examination boards at the end of this month. I know that almost all of you have secured offers of places for Post-16 education or an apprenticeship. I know the providers are getting in touch and making plans for you. If you are concerned then please do contact Mr Hough or Mr Barnes for some support or contact your intended provider. I know that the majority of you are intending to study at New College Doncaster. They are providing regular contact and updates. I would expect all providers would be looking for you to get started with some background studies on the courses you intend to take up. You can do nothing about your GCSE grades now but you can certainly get ahead with your Post-16 studies and wow those colleges with your determination. Why not put a portfolio of evidence together of your background studies. This might prove useful to take with you when you officially sign up. It might make you feel more confident if you are worried about your GCSE grades or if you feel you are borderline to meeting the entry grade criteria.

It is still our intention to give you the celebration send-off you deserve but until the government announces its guidance on social gatherings then we are unable to provide you with a date or details. We will however look forward to GCSE results day on 20 August 2020.

SIMS App – PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO YET

This will be our preferred method of communication from September 2020 so please make every effort to sign up. See the website for how to do this:

<https://www.thehayfieldschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=318&type=pdf>

Free Parenting Resource

The Local Authority is providing free online courses for parents. See below the information we received:

Want to know more about the way your teenager's brain works? Want to understand more about your child? These are tried and tested courses created in the NHS. Go to www.inourplace.co.uk to use the access code STGEORGE. Please pass on to your parents as appropriate.

Virtual parenting sessions

We have received some information from the Local Authority which is below and you may find it helpful <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/virtualfamilyhub>.

New to the Virtual Family Hub is "virtual parenting sessions" which will be hosted by DCST Parenting team.

Tuesday

Parenting children "virtual parenting session" - 2-3pm, Parenting is tough! It's even harder during COVID-19! Would you like to join a virtual group of invited parents and parenting facilitators talking about some of the issues faced whilst in lockdown and maybe some ideas on how to overcome these.

If you would like to join the virtual group for top tips, support or even just a listening ear, please email FamilyHubManagementTeam@doncaster.gov.uk or ring 01302 737350 to arrange an invite to the session via Microsoft Teams.

(Limited to 8 parents per session)

Wednesday

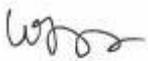
Parenting Teenagers “virtual parenting session” - 2-3pm, Parenting is tough! It’s even harder during COVID-19! Would you like to join a virtual group of invited parents and parenting facilitators talking about some of the issues faced whilst in lockdown and maybe some ideas on how to overcome these.

If you would like to join the virtual group for top tips, support or even just a listening ear, please email FamilyHubManagementTeam@doncaster.gov.uk or ring 01302 737350 to arrange an invite to the session via Microsoft Teams.

(Limited to 8 parents per session)

Sending you and your families all my very best wishes. Keep smiling.

Kind regards



Lisa Fox
Headteacher