



Hulme Hall Grammar School

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An independent co-educational school accredited by the Independent Schools Council

27th March, 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of the first week of remote learning, I wanted to write to you to reassure you that all the staff at Hulme Hall are here to support you and your child as we move into what is clearly uncharted territory for us all.

Firstly, I hope that this letter finds you and your family in good health and that that remains the case in the weeks and months ahead.

Secondly, I hope the children have been able to access their work via the SMHW app and that they have been enjoying completing it. I know that some students are finding it hard to manage their workload independently but I would urge them to contact their teachers, via the app or e-mail, if they are having any problems, as their teachers are ready and willing to offer advice. I am sure you will understand that it is very difficult to differentiate work appropriately when setting it in this way, but teachers will be able to offer more individual guidance and support if you contact them. I would urge the children to do that in the first instance and contact teachers themselves.

I have had some questions about setting homework alongside the work for normal lessons and I think it is important that you know that I have asked staff to ensure that any homework exercises are set for reinforcement purposes only, with the critical work being completed during the work set for the normal lesson. I think it would be totally understandable if parents felt that in these trying and stressful circumstances, their child deserved some relaxation time in the evening, having worked hard during the normal school day.

I would also like to say to parents that we do not expect you to take on the role of the teacher here. Obviously, you will want to help organise, encourage and assist your child wherever possible, but please remember the teachers are available throughout the school day to offer advice and support. As I said earlier, please encourage your child to contact their teachers if they are stuck or there is something about the work set that they don't understand. Of course, parents can also contact staff members, but I think it would be good if the children could take ownership of their own work wherever possible.

If parents have more general concerns relating to workload, you can contact your child's form tutor, or if you need some pastoral advice, Mrs Conway (Pastoral Manager) would be only too willing to help. Mrs Spragg (SENCO) and Mrs Gately (Enrichment) are also available to help pupils who may face extra challenges in terms of organising and prioritising their work.

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I would urge parents to bear in mind that what we are currently undertaking is remote learning and not really teaching in the traditional sense. I would say to the children simply “do your best” and don’t be afraid to ask your teacher for help. Certainly, don’t spend more than the one hour lesson on any individual subject. Your teachers will understand if you give it your best shot.

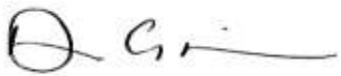
These are very new and somewhat trying conditions for us all and no doubt teachers will find new, innovative ways to set different work and tasks in the weeks ahead. Mr Corker is already looking into different ways we can use the technology that we have available to us as a School.

Whilst we have suggested the structure of keeping to the normal school day, you as parents will know what works best for your child. So, if you feel it would be more appropriate to build in some time spent in the garden (especially while the sun is shining) or to walk the dog for example, then so be it.

Please find the routine that works best for you and your family and try to keep a balance. Yes, we want the children to work hard and complete the work set but we know that not all children will be able to complete every piece of work in the time available. Mental health and wellbeing are important too, especially in the current situation.

Once again, I would like to wish you and your family continued good health and please remember we are available should you need any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Grierson".

Dean Grierson
Headmaster