



Hulme Hall Grammar School

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

3rd April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

You will be aware that today marks the end of the spring term and that our remote learning programme will take a break from today until we begin the summer term on Wednesday 22nd April. I am sure that some pupils and parents will be breathing a temporary sigh of relief, but I would like to thank and congratulate all those who have engaged with the programme and done their best to submit as much work as possible to their teachers. Thanks also to the teachers for adapting so quickly to this new way of working.

Quite naturally, some of our pupils have struggled to adapt to the new routines and I repeat my earlier advice that you should not hesitate to contact the staff for help and support. The pastoral team, led by Mrs Smith have been working especially hard to support our pupils and I am particularly grateful to Mrs Conway, Mrs Spragg and Mrs Gately for the assistance they have been providing.

A small number of pupils, for whatever reason, have not engaged with the programme and form tutors or members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will by now have been in touch to offer help and guidance. I would suggest that, for those pupils, the Easter holiday provides a good opportunity to tackle some of the outstanding work and to try to get back on track before we resume after Easter. Perhaps focus on the core subjects initially – English, mathematics and science. Mrs Norman (KS3) and Mr Lamerton (KS4) would be only too willing to help.

Year 11 pupils and parents will be waiting as anxiously as we are for further clarification as to how examination grades will be awarded this summer. As I write this letter, Ofqual have just this morning published some information on their website (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual). We will all now need some time to digest this information and I will write to our Year 11 pupils and parents when we have had time to do just that.

Year 9 reports have been completed following the recent internal examinations and should arrive with families any day now with an accompanying letter from me. For other year groups, given the disruption to the majority of this past half-term, I have decided not to issue PPRs for this half-term. I trust that parents will understand that we have been unable to complete a fair assessment of our pupils' progress given the current situation.

The Easter break will provide the SLT and teaching staff generally with an opportunity to review how the last couple of weeks have unfolded and to amend and improve our provision where possible. As I wrote in my letter to you last Friday, Mr Corker is looking into how we might be able to make better use of technology within our provision.

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Finally, I realise this “holiday” is likely to be very different to previous school holidays and, although the remote learning provision is paused until Wednesday 22nd April, I wanted to reassure you that key staff will be available to offer help and support during the holiday period. All SLT members (myself, Mrs Smith, Mr Lamerton and Mrs Norman) and the Pastoral Team (Mrs Conway, Mrs Gately and Mrs Spragg) will be checking e-mails periodically during the break, so please contact us if you need any assistance.

Also, before the closure, I asked parents of key workers and vulnerable children to let us know whether they would need the School to make provision for their child, as outlined by the Government. Only a very small number of parents eventually requested that provision, making it impractical to open the School site and I thank the parents involved for their understanding and cooperation in that situation. However, several parents did suggest that they would like to review the situation after the Easter holiday, and I am fully prepared to do that. I will write separately to those parents over the Easter break, but if you feel that you / your child falls into one of the categories identified by the government **and** that you would prefer your child to come into school after the Easter break, please let me know of your wish via secretary@hulmehallschool.org by Wednesday 15th April, so that I can reassess the situation.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and relaxing Easter break.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Grierson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dean Grierson
Headmaster