



School closure newsletter #2



Friday 10th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the second of our regular 'school closure newsletters'. I hope that you and your family members are remaining fit and healthy during this current health crisis.

Online learning

Thank you for all of the support and encouragement you've been giving your sons and daughters with their online learning since we closed. As you'll be aware, we were only given two days' notice that schools would be closing. Anticipating these closures would happen at some point, our teaching staff had already prepared 4 weeks of work to support students with the continuation of their learning. Our intention was for students to have completed the first two weeks of these learning programmes before the Easter holidays, and for Weeks 3 and 4 to be completed during the first fortnight of the summer term that begins on Monday 20th April.

I know that many students have completed all that has been required of them and are 'up to date'. Others will need to have caught up by Friday 17th April. Our expectation is that all students will have completed the first 4 weeks of work that is currently online by Friday 1st May. Given that, in all likelihood, schools will not have re-opened by the start of May, our intention is that new packages of work will be posted for students to begin from Monday 4th May. Clearly no student will want to be behind at this point so I would strongly encourage them to use the Easter holiday period to catch up with Weeks 1 and 2 of the online learning.

In summary, for those students who have completed the first two weeks of the online learning, there is no expectation that they should continue onto Weeks 3 and 4 until Monday 20th April. Instead, they may want to access some of the enrichment materials different subjects have posted. For those students who have yet to complete the first two weeks of work, we are expecting that they will have caught up by Friday 17th April.

A reminder that we have organised our Home Learning provision by year groups and this is easily accessible on our website at <https://www.ccwhitby.org/welcome/home-learning/>.

Virtual Sixth Form

We will soon be launching our **Virtual Sixth Form** to support Year 11 students from both Caedmon and Eskdale in their progression onto sixth form studies. Over the next few months they will be able to access 'bridging' work and introductory courses in the full range of Level 3 courses that Whitby Sixth Form offers. Experience tells us just how hard the 'step up' from GCSE to A Level can be for students of all abilities, and we want to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for all of our local Year 11 students, regardless of where they are intending to study in September. We'll be contacting students and their parents individually about the Virtual Sixth Form immediately after the Easter weekend.

GCSE and A-level grades and qualifications

Ofqual, the agency that oversees exam boards and how they run GCSE and A Level examinations, continues to consult with schools, professional associations and other interested parties about how students will be awarded qualifications and grades this summer. You can read more about these proposals at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>. As you would expect, there is a lot of detail still to be worked out about what will be required of schools before they submit teacher assessments and, in particular, how the exam boards, overseen by Ofqual, will

moderate the marks submitted by different schools and ensure that consistent standards have been applied. We will continue to keep you informed of developments.

Year group progression

A reminder that each of the forms in Years 7 – 11 has its own Google Classroom. Mrs Harrison and Mrs Gordon and their form tutors will continue to post news items here on a regular basis *and it is therefore important that students check into their form's classroom on a daily basis during term time.*

Mrs Harrison continues to be the Director of Learning for Years 7, 8 and 9, leading their academic progression and overseeing their well-being. She is assisted by our KS3 Pastoral Manager, Mrs Wood. Mrs Gordon is the Director of Learning for Years 10 and 11. She will shortly be joined by our new KS4 Pastoral Manager, Mr Taylor. He was due to start at college towards the end of this month but will instead join us in an online capacity, with a particular focus on supporting the progress and well-being of KS4 students. I am sure you will join me in welcoming him to the Caedmon community. Mrs Verrill is our Director of Learning for KS5 and is ably assisted by our Sixth Form Team that includes Mrs Raw, Mrs Mastrolonardo and Ms Wright from our teaching staff; Mrs Lowe, our KS5 Pastoral Manager; Mr Daley, our Post 16 learning mentor; as well as our team of sixth form tutors.

At some point during the next few weeks, Mrs Harrison will begin working with the local Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September. And as detailed above, we are expecting that majority of the local Year 11 from both schools will want to take advantage of the Virtual Sixth Form being launched at Whitby Sixth Form. We are therefore planning for Mrs Gordon to take over responsibility for Year 9 in the near future as she passes over responsibility for our current Year 11 students to Mrs Verrill and the Sixth Form Team. At this stage there are no form tutor changes planned for the remainder of this academic year.

Free school meals

At the end of March the government announced its arrangements for supporting children who are entitled to receive a free school meal during normal term times. I know that the parents of many of these students have been frustrated with delays in the roll-out of this programme, but appreciative of our efforts to quickly forward the relevant information onto the company running this scheme. After several days delay, the first set of e-vouchers have finally been dispatched. Thank you for your patience.

Provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable children

Since school closed on Friday 23rd March, we have combined with colleagues from Eskdale School to offer emergency childcare provision for the children of *key workers*. After discussions with the small number of families concerned we have suspended this provision for the duration of the school Easter holidays, but plan to re-open, if the need remains, from Monday 20th April. If you think that you fall within one of these key worker categories and will need childcare support after Easter, please contact use via post@ccwhitby.org.

Finally, thank you for your continuing messages of thank and support. I have shared many of these with all of the staff at college through our regular Staff Bulletin and they are much appreciated.

With best wishes for the Easter weekend

Yours faithfully



Simon Riley

Principal