

03.04.20

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are about to enter the Easter holiday period after 2 weeks of remote contact and learning...it feels awfully strange!

iCollege will be closed to all learners and staff during this time but virtual contact with learners / families will be maintained.

Following government guidance, staff will not be setting any formal home learning activities to complete over the Easter holidays. Instead, please take the opportunity to enjoy some fresh air if possible and try to find relaxing activities to do.

'Show My Homework' (our independent learning platform) is proving very useful as a means of providing students with appropriate learning opportunities. We have been really pleased to see that students have been completing and returning work. Please encourage your son/ daughter to log-in regularly as staff have posted a wide selection of activities including: ICT and food-related quizzes; art activities; suggestions for reading and films to watch as well as some helpful guidance and support for ensuring a positive mental health during this difficult period. Our Careers Leader has also been communicating with our older students to ensure that they are supported in their next steps.

Whilst it is important to keep learning ticking along during this unprecedented period, it is critical that your son/daughter does not feel overwhelmed. The teachers are being asked to provide learning opportunities, but your son/daughter needs to complete this at his/her own pace. If they have any questions regarding tasks, they can communicate with their teacher via the 'comments' box on SMHW or you can email the school in the usual way.

The vast majority of learners are responding well to regular welfare calls/texts/emails from their allocated key workers. Many learners are also taking the initiative and making contact appropriately with queries around learning etc. The majority of learners and parents are welcoming the opportunity to have a regular chat and staff are recording all contact on daily update records.

Safeguarding concerns are being reported immediately in line with policy and acted upon very quickly by the DSL and DDSLs. iCollege staff are in regular contact with relevant agencies and social workers as and when necessary.

We will be entering another new 'phase' after Easter and myself and my senior leaders are working on the management of this as we may potentially be facing a whole term of remote contact and learning...

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all well.

Keep safe,

Regards,

Jacquie Davies, Headteacher