



21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and welcome to our very first remote summer term! We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take this opportunity to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time.

It has certainly been a strange and challenging time, so it is understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. We are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together.

Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by emailing [office@cornwallisacademy.com](mailto:office@cornwallisacademy.com). If your child has any issues, they should contact their Year team so we can help.

Some of you have contacted the school with regards to next academic year's trips to Berlin and Italy (October 2020). Although there is no official advice or guidelines for trips taking place next academic year, we have made the difficult decision to cancel both trips. A full refund will be processed in due course.

The end of Year exams for Years 8 and 9 scheduled for this term are obviously postponed. At this time, it would seem inappropriate to impose any additional stress or anxiety onto the young people we serve. Given the uncertainty in terms of the timing of our return, it is possible that we will not undergo exams for these particular year groups during the academic year.

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education on Sunday 19th April, laptops and tablets will be made available to help the most disadvantaged young people access online learning and social care services. Young people and families eligible for devices must not already have access to one, and must be in one of the following groups:

- Children with a social worker
- Care leavers
- Disadvantaged children in Year 10

As soon as I have more information from responsible bodies, I will do my utmost to ensure that all eligible young people are identified before placing an order. If your child is in Year 12 and without a suitable device and/or connectivity to study remotely, and you can't afford those costs, you will also be eligible for support via the 16-19 Bursary Fund. Please contact Mr Sutton directly if you think you are eligible.

Finally, I am acutely aware that some of your personal circumstances may have changed dramatically over the last few weeks. If you feel isolated or in need of support, please contact us. Likewise, if you think you may now be eligible for Free School Meals, please use the following link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>.

We all miss having the students in school, but we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. So, we are carrying on with Home Learning for all our students. Our teachers will continue to set plenty of tasks for students to get stuck into over the term and we'll regularly share our 'Virtual Classroom Champions' via email and social media. Do remind your child to take breaks away from screens as well, and also make time for having fun and connecting with friends and family.

While I can't say yet when we'll be able to open the school fully, rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep students learning and the school community connected.

Warm regards,

Mrs Linney-Drouet  
Headteacher