

Ref GWA/LWO

3 April 2020

Dear Families



End of term update

This time last week I wrote to you encouraging you not to worry about the efficiency or effectiveness of any home schooling arrangements. That message was well received and I thank those of you who contacted me to that effect. If your child is in Y7-9 they have ample time to catch up when we return to normal. Y12 students are generally responding well but concerns remain in relation to the non-engagement of some Y10 students.

The feedback from parents is generally that the amount of work being set is either about right or a little too much. I have reported that back to teachers.

It would appear that things have settled down a little this week. I have seen some excellent examples of cooking masterpieces that have been put together at home and an increasing number of marble runs for the DT Marble Challenge. I hope you have been able to find Joe Wicks PE workout on YouTube and that he is having an impact on your thighs!

I hope your children have also been able to keep in touch with their Head of House via the online house assemblies. There are also plans being hatched for those students who have instrumental lessons to have these done remotely. Your child's peripatetic music teacher and/or Mrs Patrick from the school are likely to be in touch regarding that possibility.

For your information only, some teachers are currently trialling online lessons with older students using Zoom.

I am pleased to share our Spring Term edition of [KUDOS](#) which shares highlights of the events and successes from earlier this term.

Exam grades

I am now able to inform Y11 and Y13 students and parents on how qualifications will be graded and awarded in summer 2020. Please click [here](#) to view details.

Ofqual has also published a message to students to reassure them that they, and exam boards, will do everything they can to make sure that, as far as possible, grades are fair and that students are not disadvantaged because of this unprecedented situation. Click [here](#) to read the message.

E block Crowdfunder

Due to the current situation, we have put our E block funding campaign on hold until further notice and will not be proceeding with our raffle draw planned for today. We are however delighted to inform you that a total of £3,015 has been raised so far through the Crowdfunder, as well as securing some additional funds outside of this campaign.

We want to thank all the local businesses who have sponsored classrooms, and parents and staff who have donated and supported our plans. If you would like to know more about the campaign, please click [here](#).

In the future, as well as our campaign being updated and relaunched, we plan to hold an E block grand opening ceremony, which will include a tour of the new facilities.

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Easter holidays

As mentioned in last week's update, the next two weeks are calendared holidays for children and teachers. Teachers have been directed to NOT set work nor email children during the next fortnight. I would appreciate it if you and your children could refrain from emailing them during that period.

If you have exceptional concerns about your child's well-being or safety, then please do contact the school's Safeguarding Lead, Clare de Glanville on clare.deglanville@tewkesburyschool.org or indeed their Head of House (links to the Head's of House email addresses can be found [here](#)).

Literacy

Over the Easter break, students may wish to access the following free resources for reading material.

- ePlatform by Wheelers is a service that our school Library subscribes to. This means you are able to download e-books completely FREE of charge and there are HUNDREDS of books available!
- Access is very easy. Either click [here](#) or download the app from your app store onto your device. (Type "ePlatform" into the search bar in your app store). The student login is then very simple: your normal 6 digit user number (that you use for normal computer access in school) and your regular password.
- Audible from Amazon [here](#) - for as long as schools are closed, you can instantly stream an incredible collection of stories all free to your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet. No registration or sign in required.

Free School Meals

If your financial circumstances have changed, you may fit the criteria to claim for free school meals which is currently being provided by the Department for Education in the form of a £15 food voucher per child per week to be used at local supermarkets. You can check the criteria for eligibility and apply [here](#)

Tewkesbury Foodbank's opening hours from next week are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 - 12.30 pm. The Foodbank is in Church Street.

Tewkesbury Community Response

I have been asked to draw your attention to the creation of a local community group Tewkesbury Community Response - TCR - set up to help coordinate community action at this difficult time. Some of our Sixth Form students may find this of interest. Further details can be found [here](#)

To finish, I would just like to thank you for everything you are doing to support us and your children. If there is anything specific that we can do to help, then please do get in touch.

I wish you all well this Easter. Stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr G M Watson
Headteacher