



May 2020

## **RE: GOVERNMENT UPDATES, KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM, CONSULTATION**

Dear Parent/Carer

I do hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

### **Government update**

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last week, the DfE has issued guidance to schools which is being updated regularly. The latest version is below and parents are welcome to read this. There is advice in this document for students, staff, and those who live with family members, who are "clinically vulnerable" or "extremely clinically vulnerable". <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

With regards to the re-opening of secondary schools, there is no clarity as yet surrounding what is meant in the guidance by:

***"We will ask secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups."***

However, we will continue to monitor the guidance on this and plan accordingly, once we are in receipt of further clarity from the Department of Education. At this stage we do not wish to give you any false or misleading assurances.

As a Trust we are conducting very thorough and detailed risk assessments in preparation of any future face to face contact with Year 10 or Year 12 students.

Thank you in anticipation of your patience and understanding - when we are in a much better position to do so, we will communicate our decisions.

### **Home learning**

Given the unprecedented situation, our students well-being is of the utmost importance. It is important that students do not panic about work and that they stay in the 'habit of learning', therefore doing what they can, little and often, whilst trying to maintain a balance with physical exercise, relaxation and virtual communication with family and friends.

Just a reminder that each year group's learning guide can be found on our dedicated website page <http://www.harrogatehighschool.co.uk/parents-carers/home-learning-resources/>

Your child can access remote work through a number of platforms **seen** below:





- Harrogate High School VLE ([www.harrogatehighschool.co.uk](http://www.harrogatehighschool.co.uk))
- MathsWatch ([www.mathswatch.co.uk](http://www.mathswatch.co.uk))
- Seneca ([www.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com))
- GCSE Pod (Years 9, 10, 11 - <https://www.gcsepod.com/>)
- Bitesize (KS3 and KS4) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Oak National Academy ([www.thenational.academy](http://www.thenational.academy))

In addition, some departments are sending work directly to your child's school email.

We also understand that for some students, there is limited or no access to IT or internet facilities, again we are providing paper-based home learning opportunities for all students, if required. Please contact [admin@harrgatehighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@harrgatehighschool.co.uk) once the learning pack is completed and we can issue a second pack. If your child struggles to access the work provided, please do get in touch, so that we can support further.

Students can use their school email to contact staff. If students cannot remember their email or log on details, please email our Senior IT Technician on [aphillips@harrogatehighschool.co.uk](mailto:aphillips@harrogatehighschool.co.uk) who will be able to support you.

### Questionnaire-feedback

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback via the recent questionnaire. We are grateful of your detailed feedback and the positive messages of support.

There were some shared concerns/queries which I felt it important to respond to:

- **My child can't access to PC/internet** *'Please don't worry, we are happy to deliver a paper-based learning back to your home. Please contact us on the above admin email'.*
- **How will staff provide feedback to students?** *'Given the unprecedented circumstances, whilst staff may have provided some feedback or acknowledged work that has been sent, work will continue to give insight into a child's current progress and staff are not expected to give feedback on each piece of work. Paper-based packs can be handed in on return to school'.*
- **I feel overwhelmed by the amount of work** *'Please do not panic, if your child is doing a little work, often, this will help them. Routines are very important for wellbeing. There is no expectation that they do it all, just what they can. A useful checklist from the Education Endowment Foundation can be found at [https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19\\_Resources/Resources\\_for\\_parents/Supporting\\_home\\_learning\\_routines\\_-\\_Planning\\_the\\_day.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Supporting_home_learning_routines_-_Planning_the_day.pdf)*
- **Work is sometimes provided over a holiday (Easter)** *Whilst some parents/carers have requested that work is provided, there is no expectation that your child completes work over a holiday period, unless you want them to.*





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### **Half term – opening**

To support our vulnerable students and students whose parents are key workers, the school will remain open **for these students only** from **8.00-3.30pm Monday 25-Friday 29 May**. Please confirm your child's attendance by emailing [keyworkers@harrogatehighschool.co.uk](mailto:keyworkers@harrogatehighschool.co.uk)

### **Communication**

We endeavour to communicate effectively with our school community through different formats; letters, videos, social media, VLE and emails, to name just a few. Whilst we are in regular phone contact with some of our students and their families, please expect that a member of the Pastoral or Senior Leadership Team will make contact with you in future weeks to check on your child's wellbeing and to offer any further advice and support. Given that some staff will be making these calls from home, please expect the call being from a 'withheld number'.

### **KS3 Curriculum Vision and Changes**

The school strives to equip students with an ambitious and aspirational, knowledge-rich curriculum that empowers young people to have currency of choice for their futures. The school has taken the decision to revert back to a three year Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) from September 2020 after much research and careful consideration to ensure breadth and depth in the Key Stage 3 curriculum which will provide students with the essential knowledge they need to be educated citizens.

### **Mental Health & Wellbeing Week**

With it being wellbeing week with a 'kindness' theme, please find the attached resource from our Wellbeing Team which highlights links to great resources from the Mentally Healthy Schools Page.

I will write to you again soon, with further updates.

With best wishes to you and your family.

Your faithfully,

**Charlotte Clarke**  
Academy Head

Enc. Health & Wellbeing Week links





### Mental Health Awareness Week – Theme: Kindness

This week from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of May is mental health awareness week with the focus being kindness.

The focus on kindness is a response to the coronavirus outbreak, which is having a big impact on people's mental health. Mark Rowland, chief executive of the Mental Health Foundation, said: "We want to use Mental Health Awareness Week to celebrate the thousands of acts of kindness that are so important to our mental health. And we want to start a discussion on the kind of society we want to shape as we emerge from this pandemic."

Please find below some fantastic local and national services that are full of resources to explore that may help generally with wellbeing or mental health. For more information look at the mental health and wellbeing area of our website:

<http://www.harrogatehighschool.co.uk/parents-carers/mental-health-and-wellbeing-/>

1. The Go-To is a new website that helps children and young people in North Yorkshire access mental health support: <http://www.thegoto.org.uk/>
2. The action for happiness monthly calendars give you an action to complete a day [https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/875760/may\\_2020.jpg](https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/875760/may_2020.jpg)
3. Newsround video of acts of kindness: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52557800>
4. Mind resources: <https://www.mind.org.uk/get-involved/mental-health-awareness-week>
5. Kooth – an online resource for young people with interactive webinars: <https://www.kooth.com/>
6. Young minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/coronavirus-and-mental-health/>
7. The mental health foundation resources: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>
8. Coronavirus toolkit – resources for dealing with lockdown: <https://mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/2035/coronavirus-dealing-with-effects-toolkit-5.pdf>

