

30 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I thought it would be timely, as we start our second week in unusual circumstances, to send you an update letter; I hope it finds you and your families well.

A number of parents / carers have been in touch regarding lots of different issues given the change in our circumstances. Some of the communications have focused on teething issues with online learning but there have been other concerns and requests as well. Rather than trying to answer all of these in this letter, I will direct you to a Frequently Asked Questions page on the QEHS website <https://www.qehs.net/index.php/coronavirus-information/>. Thank you for the many positive and supportive emails and messages we have received over the last week.

I hope you have managed to establish some good learning routines at home. I must urge you to ensure that your children have definitely accessed the online learning by enrolling on the right Moodle courses for their subjects. There is guidance on the website (and in the FAQs) on how to do this. Some colleagues have reported to me that they have been disappointed with uptake although I have reassured them that it is very early in this unusual set of circumstances. Our teachers have made their expectations clear through the website information and through the use of platforms like Moodle, GCSE Pod and MyMaths. Given the breadth of our curriculum and the fact that it spans three key stages, there is no one-size fits all approach to the online learning provision. In terms of feedback, some of the activities that the students are asked to do result in automatic, bespoke feedback and the generation of consolidation or challenge activities. Some subjects are providing model answers differentiated to the abilities of the students. Some subjects require students to interact more frequently with their teachers so that they are provided with detailed marking / feedback. If you have any queries about the online learning, please email admin@qehs.net and a teacher or leader will provide the appropriate response.

Again, given the pace at which this situation developed, we organised a short term solution for the provision of free school meals. We await more information from the Government on the longer term scheme. If you are experiencing any difficulties related to this, please contact the admin email address and your message will be handled confidentiality and with sensitivity.

As well as ensuring that we maintain academic provision for the students, we are also mindful that many young people will be struggling with the current situation and we want to support them pastorally. Mr Zabrocki has developed a supportive document informed by the work of Place2Be, a national charity which supports children's mental health: https://www.qehs.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/wellbeing_advice_during_school_closure_27_mar_20.pdf. There is advice for parents, useful phone numbers and links to further support. Please also continue to get in touch with our pastoral leaders if you have any concerns during this unusual period.

I will be back in touch, in due course, with further updates and information. Many thanks for your support over the last few weeks.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Andriot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

James Andriot
Head of school