



2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Distance Learning – Update

Teachers are working very hard to support our students' learning during this period of school closure.

#### Firefly Tasks:

On Monday we amended the instructions and guidance given to teachers and we hope that this will improve the experience for our students. However, it is important to note that it is impossible for teachers to differentiate the amount of learning tasks set to suit individual student needs. We believe that the amount set will be suitable for most of our students, but it may be that:

- Some students find that they are struggling to complete all the tasks set. If this is the case for your son or daughter, please check that they are following the guidance given to students (copy attached) and encourage them not to worry, even if they are unable to complete a task to the standard that they would like by the deadline given. This is acceptable as long as they are spending the necessary time (approximately 2 to 3 hours each day) and are trying their very best.
- Some students find that they easily complete all the tasks set and would benefit from further learning. If this is the case for your son or daughter, please encourage them to access the wealth of other subject specific information available to enhance their learning, which can be found on the library pages of Firefly and the school website (please see the "*Our School > Curriculum > Online Resources*" tab. Additional information will be added over the coming weeks), as well as BBC Bitesize and similar learning resources available on the internet.
- Some students find that the school closure provides an opportunity to avoid learning. Therefore it is important for parents to monitor their child's engagement in learning on a regular basis, providing appropriate challenge and support where needed. Our monitoring will indicate if a student is regularly and frequently not engaging with their learning tasks. If this is the case for your son or daughter, the Year Manager will alert you to this fact so that additional support can be offered to improve the situation.
- Some SEND students find that the significant change to their routines means that they struggle to complete or even start tasks. If this is the case for your son or daughter, please use your own knowledge of your child to judge the right amount of expectation to have of them. Do not worry if they are unable to fully complete tasks set.

In all cases it is a balance between students' learning and progress and students' good mental health and well-being.

## Online Safety

Your son or daughter will be spending a lot more time online during this period of school closure and social distancing measures. The Department for Education (DfE) has provided information for parents and carers, which includes a section on keeping children safe online. It provides links to online resources that will help support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online.

Full details can be found in section 6.3 of the guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

In addition, the Local Authority Safeguarding Team have alerted all schools to several safeguarding concerns about the live streaming involved when using the APP called "House Party". Here is a web link to a blog about the App. <https://www.inege.com/2020/03/30/houseparty-how-safe-is-the-app-taking-the-uk-by-storm/>

Some students are using school email / Firefly / social media inappropriately and irresponsibly to message others. Please talk to your son or daughter about appropriate use of online messaging technology and, where possible, monitor their use of this. School will continue to monitor and deal with inappropriate use.

Please remember that teachers, other school staff and school leaders are trying their very best to do the right thing in these complex and previously unknown circumstance. We will continue to adapt our approach, as necessary, in order to improve the experience for our students.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support. Please continue to check the "School Closure" section on the home page of the school website for the latest information.

I wish you and your family the best over the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,



**Ms Janet Sheriff**  
**Executive Headteacher**