

Dear Parent/Carer

As we all adapt our lives to this unprecedented situation, following the key instructions from the Government to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives, I would just like to give you a brief update on the educational provision Copleston are providing.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support as we transition to a system of online learning. As outlined in previous messages, students can access work from the Copleston school website by clicking on the “work from home” button. They will then need to input their school login and password to access the work for their year group. We advise students follow their timetable as far as is possible, so complete 5 lessons per day from the subjects they should have been taking on that day. Answers and feedback to some tasks will be uploaded so that students can check their own learning and make any corrections. Key questions will also be identified to send to teachers for individual feedback. Students’ need to email these selected questions only to their teachers. The questions will be easy to spot as they will have an icon near them to tell the students it is a question that needs email submission. This should be done through the school email system. Any other questions should also be emailed to teachers through the school email system. Mr Walker has sent all students some simple email protocols to follow, including signing off with their name and keeping the tone of messages professional. These are good habits for later life.

We recognise that, as well as completing lessons, it is important that students take regular breaks from their screen during the day and also engage in physical activities. Our PE department are uploading physical challenges for students to try at home, and you may have also seen that Joe Wicks is delivering PE lessons for all children live each day at 9:00 am from his YouTube channel. This may be a good way for students to start their day and can be easily found via an internet search or by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYlRfn6rYQ>

With specific reference to Year 11 and Year 13 students we expect them to remain academically active, with a particular focus on the courses they intend to pursue post GCSE and A Level. Government guidance indicates that pupils will be awarded grades using calculations based on predictions around their mock outcomes, teacher assessment, potential progress between the spring mocks and the summer examinations, as well as their prior attainment data. Pupils who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Hence, it is vital that Year 11 and Year

13 students continue to access work uploaded on the Share point as part of remote learning.

If you have any further questions on awarding of GCSE or A level grades, please refer to the links below which has a number of very useful responses to likely questions.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced?utm_source=96f31727-1fb9-408b-a7fa-d91d4ceaeb6b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

Further to this, in order to help support our Year 11 students prepare for the academic demands of A level study, each A level subject is producing a bank of pre A level work that students can be working on over the coming months. This work will take a wide range of forms including extended reading, watching relevant documentaries and exam style questions. This work will not only provide the opportunity for students to really engage with the subjects they are applying for at Sixth Form, it will also help them to develop the independent study skills that are vital for success at A level. We are aiming to have this work ready and available for Year 11 by the end of next week via the Year 11 share point area and we will communicate with you again when this is ready.

We are aware that some families have not been able to source access to a suitable device to allow their child to work online. As a medium-term solution to this problem, the school has a very small number of lap tops it is able to lend to students for home use. If you would be interested in borrowing a school laptop for your child, please contact your child's Leader of Learning (LoL). Please do be aware that this supply is limited so this is only for those families with no other option.

Finally, I would like to again stress the schools position with regard to the children of key workers and also those children entitled to Free School Meals. The school remains open to the children of Key Workers who are not able to provide supervision by any means other than sending children into school. We have a number of staff who are volunteering to come and support those students on a rota basis, to ensure that the provision is sustainable in the medium to long-term. While in school we will practise social distancing to the

greatest extent possible and will implement rigorous hygiene. Detailed guidelines on Key workers can be found in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As a school we are intent on making provision for our Free Schools Meals students. Last week all parents of students in receipt of Free School Meals received a weekly allowance on a card that could be spent at Sainsbury's. As stated in my previous letter, I asked you to keep hold of your card so that it could be topped up again by the school and I can now confirm that we will be topping these cards up for an additional two weeks on Friday March 27th. We will continue to top up these cards every two weeks until the school reopens or until a government alternative is announced. If you have lost your original card or believe that your child is entitled to them, please contact your child's Leader of Learning (LoL). If, as instructed, you still have your card you do not need to do anything as the school can add funds to these cards without physically needing them.

As we enter a new phase of the country's response to the coronavirus crisis, it is, I am sure, increasingly hard for you and your children to imagine normal school life restarting. However, we know that Copleston will re-open again at some point in the future. In the meantime, please do stay in touch, please do encourage your children to learn, and please be completely assured that we will be doing the very best we can for our superb students.

Yours Sincerely

Mr AB Green (Principal)