Dear Parents/Carers

Update on closure and home learning

I hope you and your family are well. We have, sadly, heard of some bereavements over the last fortnight. We will continue to support families wherever possible and be in contact via phone or email. Please continue to let us know if there are COVID issues in your family so that we can support appropriately.

We have been open for a few students over the last two weeks but will be closed for the duration of the Easter holidays. Thank you for all your efforts these numbers low. It helps us keep the situation manageable and ultimately supports us all in being able to keep our social distance and prevent the spread of infection. Closure will also enable us to conduct a deep clean of the site by a specialist team so that we are ready to reopen for students of key workers/vulnerable students from Monday 20th April. Please ensure that you fill in the attached form if you wish your child to attend.

Meanwhile, thank you for your support with your child’s home learning during this time. I fully appreciate how hard it can be to look after children, maintain your own jobs and to follow the advice to keep your families safe, well and healthy. We are tracking student engagement with the work, so please encourage your child to engage sensibly with the learning provided. Of course we recognise the need for down time and physical/creative activity but the balance needs to be correct.

We have given a lot of thought to how we can make home learning simpler and more accessible for all students. After the Easter break I will send out via email (but also put on the website) a new streamlined timetable for home learning in Years 7-10 and 12. Year 11 and 13 should continue to work and learn up to the end of May (or when the exam was to take place if earlier). The more Year 11 and 13 do the better they will be placed for their future plans post 16 or post school.

I know many families/students have had direct contact from staff. After Easter we will try to streamline this so that the form tutor will be the main point of contact and feedback to you about your child’s engagement with their learning. However, we are always open to email feedback if you are concerned.

Can I ask you to please return the questionnaire to Ark Schools about the access to the Technology to Support Home Learning. This will help us greatly to understand the issues surrounding home learning and adjust our work accordingly.

I wish you all well over the coming weeks,

Best wishes

Delia Smith
Principal