



3 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Update from the principal – 3 April 2020

I would like to thank you for the support you have shown in embracing the new challenges that we are all currently faced with. I appreciate the time that you have taken to help your son or daughter to navigate a new way of working during this time of unprecedented change. As a college, we have been so very impressed with the way in which our students have endeavoured to rise to this new challenge and we know that they have been helped by so many parents and carers giving their time to support them.

Onsite provision

We do have an operational onsite provision for families who are keyworkers or where children are particularly vulnerable. This has been working smoothly and the students who have attended have been exceptional in the way they have conducted themselves. For those students, being at school is very different to normal. They have been engaged in a mixture of online learning, alongside some physical and creative tasks, in order to mirror activities which other students might be able to undertake at home.

Online provision

We have been hugely impressed by the level of engagement by the vast majority of Brockington students. We can see many of our students making excellent use of the range of platforms in which learning has been taking place. We understand that each family may need to set its own routine and structure based on its own needs at this time, and fully appreciate that not all work will be able to be completed by all students at the same time. Our teachers and support staff have been on hand to answer questions and queries that students may have. We have also appreciated the feedback from parents, which has been useful to help us continue to refine what we offer. This process is an ongoing one. Despite the responsible and proactive approach shown by so many, unfortunately there are a small number of students who have not taken part in any online learning or requested paper copies of work. If your son/daughter falls into that category, we will be contacting you straight after Easter to discuss any barriers to learning, and how we can further support them.

Easter break

As you will be aware the Easter break takes place from Monday 6 April for two weeks. As a school, we continue to offer our onsite provision, in order to support families of key workers to enable them to continue their essential work (for which we are very grateful). During the Easter break, optional online learning tasks will be set to enable families to have time to be together but to also ensure that work is available where it will be useful in helping to maintain a routine. This work will be clearly marked as 'optional Easter work' and will not disrupt the flow of the regular work being set. During the Easter break, our teaching and support staff will not be available to answer individual questions, as it is important that they also have time with their families and to take their own Easter break.

Head teacher's challenge

You will all have seen the head teacher's challenge which I established earlier this week. I have already received some excellent responses from students who are learning new things or helping their families in some exceptional ways. Please do encourage your child to continue with this.

Free school meals

To date we have provided families of children entitled to free schools meals with food hampers and vouchers. The government has now introduced a voucher scheme, which we will be setting up over Easter, and we will be in touch with relevant families to ensure that this is operational ready for the new term. In addition, we have been notified that the local authority children & family well-being service are able to offer emergency food parcels for children and families. If you are struggling to get food, due to isolation or money worries, please call 0116 3055282.

I am proud to say that this week, Brockington College has donated over 180 safety goggles to the NHS appeal and has supported families in need by delivering 40 food parcels to the local food bank. The Brockington College community may not currently be physically together in one place, but we can still work together to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. Please continue to take care of yourself and your families; I will be in touch again after the Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Sadie Batstone
Principal

