



22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Update from the principal – 22.05.20

It has been an inconceivable two weeks, following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10 May to ask schools across the country to plan to reopen to certain groups of students from 1 June 2020. As you will no doubt be aware, secondary schools were asked to prepare to provide some face-to-face support to supplement online learning for year 10 students, who have been prioritised in preparation for their GCSE exams next summer. The senior leadership team and I have completed a stringent risk assessment, which is to be approved by the local governing board and Embrace trustees before we are able to open more fully. At this point, I can tell you that year 10 students will not be returning on Monday 1 June, but instead, we will be taking some time to train all staff in our potential new way of working, with a view that we might open more widely in future weeks. This of course is subject to change as a result of further government advice and announcements and those parents/carers will have received separate, more detailed letters regarding this. We will, of course, remain open to children of key workers and vulnerable students in same the way that with have throughout this pandemic.

However, the announcements and guidance do appear, at this point, to indicate that students in years 7-9 will not return to school this side of the summer holidays. Therefore, we plan to continue to set work and support students in those years to work remotely. Work will be set through Show My Homework, on a Friday, for the week ahead, and class teachers as well as the pastoral team will be available via email. Over the past few weeks, we have developed use of Google Classroom, which enables teachers to set work that may have video or audio content of their teaching, rather than just relying on written work. We have also trialled live online lessons and plan to roll this format out across year groups and subjects, over the coming days and weeks. As I am sure you will appreciate, this is a new way of working for many staff, who have been developing innovative ways to overcome the challenges we face. There have also been many technical and safeguarding considerations to overcome in order to deliver live online lessons safely. We are very aware of how difficult remote learning is, and we are very grateful for the efforts and sacrifices parents and carers are making and will continue to make. Thank you for your ongoing support.

We continue to receive feedback and updates from parents/carers on a daily basis. Alongside their school work, we know that a large number of students have been busy supporting the NHS, their families and their communities, as well as learning new skills and developing new hobbies. We would like to encourage students to let us know what they have been up to by sending us their photos, with the aim of creating a lasting visual record of this time. Maybe they have been baking or delivering food parcels to vulnerable neighbours? Have they been reading, painting or crafting? Perhaps they have taken up yoga, an instrument or have developed green fingers in the garden or maybe they have spent time helping to make PPE for the NHS? Please encourage your son/daughter to document what they have been doing in lockdown. To inspire students, we have created a short video highlighting what Brockington staff have been busy doing, alongside continuing to teach and support our students!

- Busy in Lockdown – Brockington Staff: <https://youtu.be/9y6Y3ygERP>
- Busy in Lockdown – A request from Mrs Batstone: <https://youtu.be/58J95Ypt4fk>

Thank you for your continuing support during this challenging period for all of us and we hope that you and your family are remaining safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Sadie Batstone
Principal

