

27 May 2020

Hello from Henry B! Edition 10

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you and your families are all keeping well and enjoying the lovely weather. I have been pottering in my garden and reading as well as keeping up with my daily walk. The attempt at some DIY with a new skirting board hasn't gone quite so well!

Thank you for all the photographs you have sent in from our 'Feel Good Friday' day. You have been up to some amazing things. I hope you enjoyed the day, the photos we have received so far suggest you certainly had a brilliant time! There is still time to send them in if you haven't had a chance yet.

I am sure you have also enjoyed viewing the year group videos too. Trust Mrs T to get a 'Take That' song into hers!! It has been so lovely to see so many of you and the creative and innovative activities you have been doing as part of your work and leisure time during lockdown. You are a very talented group of young people.

Last week I focused on Year 10 so this week I am using more of the newsletter for Years 7-9.

I know that you will be disappointed that you will not be back in school before the summer holidays. After half term it will be really important that you do as much of your on line learning as possible as this will help your teachers work on their lesson planning for the autumn. This is especially important with your assessments and making sure that you return them to your teachers to mark. Remember, if you are finding these difficult you can email your teacher for help using their school email address. We hope to be introducing some on line tutorials for you in the next few weeks once we have trialed it with Year 10. It is new to your teachers so I want them to have the opportunity to get used to this technology before we widen its use. This will allow us to iron out the glitches and consider how we can use it productively with you.

A question that I am sure you are all asking is what happens when we do come back and how will we make up the time?

As soon as we went into lockdown, the school began planning for the next academic year with a clear focus on the need to adjust the curriculum to make up for the potential gaps in learning that may have impacted on you. This has been reflected in the online learning programme of study for your subjects so that you are keeping up as best you can and in line with what you would have been learning in the classroom. We realise that this has been easier for some of your subjects than others and we have been careful to look at this in our

planning. The assessments that are in place in the work at home programme are deliberately designed so that we can see what progress you are making, where you might, through no fault of your own, have gaps in your learning and from this build the programmes of study you will follow next year. This is why it is so important to get those assessments done!

On returning in the autumn we have planned Progress Reviews in all subjects to work out the level of progress you have made. This will help us plan your lessons for the following weeks and months. Additional support will be available for you if we feel you need more time on a particular topic or subject.

Parents, please be assured that we will not let any of our students slip under our radar and this was our primary focus when we generated the online programme of work, building this in to the planning of the curriculum from the Autumn. It will require us to be a little fluid in planning and preparation particularly in the first term but I know my magnificent colleagues will come back in September refreshed from a proper break and absolutely determined to get every young person back on track.

I have attached information for parents on a support line that is now available to you to discuss confidentially any concerns you may have about your child's wellbeing.

Enjoy the rest of the half term. It's back to the skirting board for me!

With my best wishes to you and your families,

Miss Hearle
Headteacher

Attachment