



CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL

24 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well and that everyone enjoyed their Easter break, even if the holidays were somewhat different to usual.

I have enjoyed seeing examples on Twitter of students being active and creative whilst at home. Hopefully, this time will lead to some new hobbies and to a wider perspective of the love of learning. Well done to all!

Parent Survey Feedback

In my last letter, I included a link to a parent/carer survey asking for your feedback on home learning so far. Thank you to all those who responded and to the additional emails received from individuals, thanking the school for our work in these difficult circumstances. We welcomed the suggestions and comments about things we could tweak in order to support families and enhance our provision.

Home Learning changes

In the light of our experiences so far, feedback from the parents/carers survey and because we now know the school closure will be longer than anticipated, we have refined our approach to the provision of home learning in the following key areas:

Organisation

To support parents/carers further with home learning we will be providing a simple weekly overview of subject topics that your child will be studying. This will be made available on the home learning section of the website every Sunday in preparation for the following week. In addition to this, the work set for the week will go live on SMHW on Sunday (rather than Monday) to allow parents extra time to organise their child's home learning schedule for the week if they wish to do so.

Work

We don't want to put too much pressure on pupils to complete too much work and feel overwhelmed. Students shouldn't be working for more hours than a normal school day. However, we also understand some students want more work to complete over this period of time to keep themselves busy. Therefore, moving forward, each piece of work set will have two tasks, a **core task** (which students should try their best to complete) and an **extension task** (this is optional). There will also be an optional creative project set every other week on SMHW with a variety of tasks for your child to choose from and complete if they wish.

Monitoring Progress

Teachers will continue to respond to learners' questions and requests for support through SMHW and Google Classrooms. We have also identified 'Key Marked Pieces' in subjects where this adds value to learning. This feedback may be in the form of specific written comments through Google Classroom or SMHW. The online learning packages used, such as Hegarty Maths and Kerboodle, also provide instant feedback to learners and teachers on student performance. We have also put additional support in place to encourage those students who aren't engaging to ensure they are not disadvantaged by the closure.

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Community

I appreciate that pupils are communicating with each other via social media and maintaining contact with friends, however, a lot of pupils will be missing the school community. We are very mindful of that and have responded to this by launching a range of fun and engaging activities on Twitter, which provide an opportunity for pupils to see and engage with friendly faces. For further details of our weekly social interaction activities <https://carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk/home-learning/>

It is important to remember that we are all part of the same community, and we will continue to find as many ways as possible to stay connected to each other throughout this period of time.

Wellbeing

Whilst Home Learning is an important part of maintaining a good routine and keeping the brain active, staying happy and healthy must remain our priority. Next week, form tutors will be phoning parents/carers to check-in with you to see how your child is doing. This will be a general wellbeing call to make sure that all students are well, managing with the work being set and are coping socially. Form tutors will also provide you with their email address so you have an additional point of contact over this period of time should you have any questions. In addition, the Department for Education has published guidance for parents on supporting mental health and wellbeing at this time. The guidance can be found through the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Website

The school website has been slightly altered to make it is easier to navigate. We will continue to keep our website up to date with copies of all the letters which are being sent. These can now be found in a centralised section of the website <https://carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk/communication/>. In addition, we have created a page called 'Home Learning' which contains explicit video guides and copies of other documents which might be helpful during this period.

And finally...

With veterans like 99 year old Captain Tom Moore to inspire us, it certainly makes me feel that everyone of us who is part of the school community can overcome the challenges that the coming weeks will bring, for he is a reminder of the power of determination and the reality of each and every one of us being in this together.

As always, thank you for your continued support and I will write to you again in due course with any further updates.

In the meantime, I hope you might enjoy this message on behalf of the staff at Carleton which can be seen via this link: <https://youtu.be/wpPecxGLINK>

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Cross
Head of School