



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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1 April 2020

Dear students, parents and carers

I hope you and your family are healthy and safe.

It has been more than a week since our school has shut and I wanted to touch base with you all.

In these uncertain times, it is crucial for our school community to stick together and to support each other.

With over 96% attendance for our last parents' evening, you have demonstrated your strong commitment and support and I wanted to thank you.

We are here for you. We have a safeguarding team on hand so if you have any concerns, contact your tutor or me and we will contact you to ensure you are safe.

Remember to look after each other. Minimising stress in times like these is vital for our mental health. Don't let this be something that stresses you, let go of the things you cannot control and embrace change. We have to adapt to this mental and physical adjustment. Now more than ever, we must abandon the performative and embrace the authentic.

I know as a mother myself, how difficult it is to combine working from home and supporting your children in their home learning at the moment, but we have to organise a new routine to ensure a sense of normalcy and security for them. Here are some ideas we can all use:

Read a bit every day (or listen to audio books), keep a confinement diary to encourage creative writing skills, draw, paint, watch movies, jump around, watch the sunset, the sunrise, phone your friends and relatives, bake a cake, make pancakes, dust off the long forgotten 1500 piece puzzle that you have been meaning to start!

In addition, your children have been given a hard copy pack of materials to work on independently from home (English, Maths, DT and Hums for last week and this week) and I hope they are working well on them.

They can also access learning materials on their Teams via the student school website access page using their Office 365 account. Make sure you know how to log on to Teams through the school website.

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/turn-in-an-assignment-in-microsoft-teams-e25f383a-b747-4a0b-b6d5-a2845a52092b>

Students, please complete the work being set and let teachers know you have understood an activity / a task by using a 👍 on the chat in teams.

We expect you to take a break from schoolwork during the Easter holidays, then we will begin the new term working from home using our remote learning technology.





Please contact the school if you have issues with technology access at home -we know that some of you will have to share computers/ laptops or work using a mobile phone. Please phone the school and leave a message so we can get back to you (but no-one will be working over Easter).

We will be setting work for each subject, each week in the Teams Chat. You will submit work through the assignments section of Teams. You will be expected to check the work from each teacher and complete by the end of the week, but they will not be sitting by their computer in the lesson time so don't expect an immediate answer!

Watch a video on how to submit work on Teams in Assignments if you are not clear:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_PD6u4w7iM

[Submitting an Assignment in Microsoft Teams for Education - YouTube](#)

A Complete Beginners Guide to Zoom (2020 UPDATE) Everything You Need to Know to Get Started - Duration: 36:57. Ben Balden - live a happier, fuller life Recommended for you.

I know you will try your best to complete the work set to a high standard. I am really proud of you.

This challenging time is a perfect period to press reset in our lives. Once you have embraced this shift, your wonderful, creative and resilient mind will surprise you with its adaptability. *"Neglect not the gift that is in thee"*, as on the other side of this difficult journey are hope and resilience.

Remember to stay at home, be kind and help each other.

Ms Desbenoit

Student Progress Leader Year 8 / Diversity Coordinator