



GPN/jm

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

### COVID-19 Update

I am writing to update you with the current situation and provide answers to a number of queries and worries that have been raised. We recognise that this is a difficult time for everyone and I would like to reiterate that the most important thing for all our students at this time is their physical and mental well-being.

We are continuing to set work for all the students and I would like to provide some guidance on the expectations and requirements, but I emphasise that this is guidance and you may decide to do things differently, dependent on the individual circumstances within your family and the student's needs.

We are setting the work so that students can continue with their studies and to give them the security of some element of a routine that would usually have been provided by their attendance at school. Students should only be attempting the amount of work they are capable of doing, and there needs to be a balance between school work and home life. I would not expect any student to be completing school work during the two weeks of Easter, unless they wish to do so. I have been asked by many parents/guardians how long each day students should be working. Again, this is best judged by the individual situation at home but we, as a school, would not expect students to be working longer than the normal school day, and within this they should include breaks.

It has been raised that students are becoming concerned about not being able to complete all the work and if there are consequences for students not being able to complete or hand in the work. I would like to reiterate that there will be **NO** sanctions for students who are unable to complete the work or unable to hand work in.

There is no requirement for students to hand the work in, but should they wish to send the work in to their teachers, as many already are, then the teachers will continue to check the work and give feedback to the students. If students wish to send work in, but are unsure of the individual teacher's email address, they can send it to [parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com](mailto:parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com), ensuring it is marked for the attention of their teacher and this will then be forwarded to them.

Individual teachers will be sending out messages to check on the progress of the students in completing tasks and activities; this is to support the students and to see if they need any help or guidance with the work. Students can also contact members of staff if they need to ask individual questions about the work or for additional guidance.

We will be sending out regular communication to both students and parents as we receive updates. Currently, we are still awaiting confirmation about how the grades will be awarded to students completing courses this year. In order to support this, as well as the usual email communication method, we are also starting to use the notifications and messaging sections within Edulink One. If you have any difficulty in accessing your Edulink account please contact the school, using [parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com](mailto:parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com) and we can resend you your login details.

We will also be launching a Random Acts of Kindness initiative, which will be available through the school website, Edulink and Facebook. This will give suggestions of acts that can be undertaken and we will be asking members of the school community to share what they are doing. We are doing this to enable the school community to remain as much as possible at the heart of the community, whilst sharing positive activities that we are all undertaking to support one another.

We will also be adding more information regarding careers and online resources that students may wish to make use of, as they become available. These include the opportunity to find out about possible careers and sign up for online lectures which give an insight into careers and university courses on offer. Links to this will be sent to students through their Edulink accounts.

We appreciate that for everyone this is an unsettling time and that we don't have the answers to all the questions that are being asked. We greatly appreciate the comments and feedback we are receiving from parents/guardians and are taking on board many of these suggestions to refine how we are working. We are here to support and guide the students through this time and if you have any concerns that you would like to raise, that you think we could support you with, please contact us using [parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com](mailto:parentcontact@sandysecondaryschool.com).

I would finally like to wish you all a Happy Easter and hope that you are able to stay safe and healthy at this challenging time.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Preston  
Head of School

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