

EBE/sr

20th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this email finds you all safe and well. We wanted to thank you again for the exceptionally positive response you gave us over the last few weeks. The feedback we have received does get shared with staff who are always very motivated by your kind words and appreciation. It has been really good to hear from many of you about how you are managing this situation. I know it is often useful to know that you may not be the only parent finding home schooling hard!

Our students are very adaptable and we are sure they are finding ways to make the most out of this difficult situation. Equally, though, we know in some cases students might become somewhat demotivated. We will continue with our tutor calls and contact through social networking and Edulink.

If you or your child do need further support, do contact us via talk2us@willingdonschool.org.uk or talktous@willingdonschool.org.uk

We wanted to let you know that a few teaching staff have moved on at the end of last term. Mrs Rowe - ICT, Mr Wilson - Computer Science, Mr Healy - Leader of Learning for Music and Mr Jagot - Director of Learning for Science.

We would like to congratulate Mrs Thomas who will be Assistant Associate Head and Director of Learning for Science. Also congratulations to Mrs Wilson who will be stepping up to Leader of Learning for Music. We would also like to welcome Mr Griffiths who will be Leader of Learning for Computer Science and ICT.

We are in constant dialogue with our unions and the Department for Education about a possible return date. As soon as we know more, we will be in immediate contact with you. Ultimately, we need to ensure that your children and our staff are kept safe. That will always be our number one priority.

Finally, Mr Curtis has been in touch about the work expectations of home schooling. Below is the information he shared which is available on the front page of the website.

Home-based learning for Willingdon students

In the event that a student is based at home, the school is still committed to continue offering a high quality education. During the first two weeks of closure, we shared a wide range of focused resource packs for every year group. All of these resources can still be accessed (links below), but as we move into Term 5 (after the Easter break), we will share new work slightly differently.

All students should expect to be set work through **Edulink** every week or fortnight. Edulink is the central place to keep up to date with all home-based learning tasks, and teachers will use Edulink as the starting point to link to other online resources such as **Google Classroom**, **Foldr**, **Method Maths**, **Educake** and **IXL**. Edulink will give information about which tasks need to be completed or shared with teachers. Please ensure that your son or daughter is able to log on to all the online platforms they are being asked to use on Edulink, and contact us (using the Talk2us email) if they have any problems with logging on.

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Based on responses from families on the first fortnight of home-based learning, we have decided that **2-3 hours per week for English, Maths and Science, alongside 1-2 hours per week for other subjects**, is an appropriate volume of work. This will work out at around **three hours of learning activity on each weekday**, with no obligatory weekend tasks (although some optional stretch and project work will be shared for students who would like to do more). We will continue to review and fine-tune this workload as time goes on. If you have any concerns about the work set, please feel free to contact subject teachers or the Talk2Us email address.

Alongside Edulink and other online platforms, the school uses **Foldr** for many online resources. Please use the main school student username and password to access Foldr.

Students without computer access

We are aware that some members of our student community do not have access to computers and/or internet access for home-based learning. We will find ways to provide regular work and help for students in this situation. We already have a list of the students who we believe do not have computer access, but please use the Talk2Us email address if you need any further support. For the most recent tasks, guidance and online lessons, please log in to Edulink.

Best wishes,

Ms Beer
Headteacher