

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well.

Difficult times. A new normal. Unprecedented. Short term pain. The list of lock-down clichés is undoubtedly longer than the four phrases highlighted but there can be very little doubt that these words present a growing picture of society and resonate with most of us.

As parents and carers, I wanted to thank you for both your patience and support over the past four weeks – a time when teachers have been working indefatigably to provide remote learning as well as designing lessons that can be accessed using a range of technological devices.

This lockdown is clearly very different to last year: it's cold; the rate of infection has significantly increased; daily exercise has become more difficult in the poor weather. With these changes, it is therefore important to remember that as a school, our primary concern is your child's welfare.

We are fully aware that, despite the remote learning provision being significantly strengthened from last year – and having received a huge amount of praise and positive feedback for the way in which it is being delivered, that there may be times when students feel the pressure and find that they have struggled to submit a piece of work before the deadline.

May I therefore offer some reassurance to all parents and students that whilst it is an important life skill to manage workload and meet deadlines, we of course appreciate that during this period where a lot of families are juggling demands of working from home and supporting children with their home learning, we can only expect students to do their best. If there are any concerns, please remember that we are still here, albeit remotely, to offer support and cheer you up! Working until late at night is not going to support a healthy work-life balance.

Please also be assured that we are regularly reviewing the content and amount of work being set, improving communication between departments and ensuring that the work being set is both manageable and enjoyable.

To quote my grandfather, 'enjoy what you can today and tolerate the rest'. We are so proud of our students for doing a fabulous job – well done to them.

Regards,
Mr T. Harding
Assistant Principal