



## HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PDR/JDN

19 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I'm sure by now that you all know of someone who is struggling either with the coronavirus itself, or indeed associated problems. Whilst, the government is tentatively trying to reopen the economy by relaxing some of the lockdown measures, the impact of the virus continues to be a real threat and I do hope that you and your family are keeping safe and managing as best as you can in the difficult circumstances.

You will be aware of the government's intention to reopen schools to a wider student audience over the next few weeks, initially with primary schools from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and the proposal of year 10 and 12 students having some 'face to face' contact with teachers before the summer holiday. At school, we are making plans for what this might look like and whether it will be advisable for students and staff to physically be in school or will it be equally effective and safer for there to be one to one face-to-face meetings using the video function in Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Whilst we desperately want to get school back to normal, please be reassured, we will only reopen the school site to students beyond the current key worker/vulnerable children when it is safe to do so and a full risk assessment is in place with appropriate physical safeguarding practices in place. We will await the promised further guidance from the government about secondary schools, which we hope will be soon after the 28<sup>th</sup> of May SAGE meeting, and following this I hope to be able to give further information about a phased re-opening.

Year 7 parents will note there is currently a planned parents' evening scheduled for the 11th of June. Clearly, this will not be happening in the usual way, but we are making plans to do this remotely on the telephone. Further, more detailed guidance will be coming out shortly to those involved.

For all year groups, excepting years 11 and 13 who have completed their courses, we will be communicating some 'assessment' data to parents/students as soon as we can after the half-term holiday. I'm sure you will appreciate, this will not be in the same format as in previous terms, but it is important for all parties to have an understanding of how well remote learning has progressed for individual students and what areas may need addressing moving forward. As we have stated from the outset, we must all make sure that no student falls behind during the current phase of working from home and if the data identifies any issues it is important we know this and act upon it accordingly.

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For students/parents in year 11 and 13, we are in the final phase of calculating and then submitting centre-assessed grades to the exam boards. A huge amount of work has been put in to this procedure by staff, analysing student internal assessment data and moderating between staff and classes to the point where we feel confident, within the realms of honesty and integrity, we are being very supportive of the hard work students have put in to their studies over a number of years.

On Friday we break up for the half term holiday, which feels very strange and probably won't feel much like the holiday we had planned. However, I do hope that you all manage to get some rest and relaxation, at least there will be no schoolwork being set! To those of you celebrating Eid at the weekend, I trust you will enjoy the religious festival and my best wishes to you all for this, though I understand you will have to modify celebrations, given the continued social distancing guidance perhaps until another time.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and hard work during this period of schooling and also pass my thanks to all school staff who are desperate to see their students, but in the meantime, continue to provide the best lessons they can remotely.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Peter Roberts

Headteacher