

Important Information for Parents - 24th April 2020

ALL: When will schools reopen?

As I mentioned on Monday, we simply do not know the answer to this. We have received the same information as you through the daily Government briefings. I believe that the reason that no one is answering this question yet is because there can be no answer currently, as we all have to wait to see how the situation pans out. This is what makes the assertions by some media outlets of 'likely' dates and 'likely' year groups who will be allowed back first, even more dangerous and frustrating. It is extremely difficult for us all, and must be so hard for you not having an answer for your children who are missing their friends and teachers so much; but we simply do not know. I will not add my own personal thoughts of what I think is 'likely' to the discussion, as I risk this becoming seen as fact as well and I fear that only time will tell in this situation. Please be reassured, however, that we are discussing and planning for all eventualities, and will be ready for whatever comes next.

Of course the School is not fully closed; we are still open to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those teachers who are going in each day to support these young people, whilst also setting remote learning for their other own classes.

ALL: Remote Learning

I hope you are all back into some sense of routine after the Easter holidays. Secondary assemblies are beginning this week, so please do ensure that pupils engage with this as well. Whilst we have made it very clear that we completely understand that not all children will be able to complete all of the work, we are concerned by the low levels of submission in secondary year groups in particular. Work is being set to be accessible without too much support from parents in the older year groups, and we would encourage children to be doing as much as they can in order to keep their brains active and ready for return to school. It may well be that pupils are completing the work but not submitting it formally, so we would encourage pupils to do this as much as possible please. And do reach out to teachers if pupils are struggling.

You may have heard in the media that some pupils will be eligible for a laptop from a new Government scheme. There are very strict criteria for this, and this criterion means that there are not many pupils in the School who will be eligible. However, we will be contacting those of you that this does affect over the next week.

We have also had time now to properly explore the new National Oak Academy platform and enhanced BBC Bitesize provision. We are **not** recommending that parents and pupils independently dip into these. They are full programmes of work, and not supplementary resources. Our own teachers may be using the lessons as work they formally set, if they fit in with our own schemes and plans, but an adhoc approach is not advised. Instead, if you are looking for supplementary work, please refer back to our recommended list of websites and the enrichment activities outlined below.

We have been asked to share with you the following documents from the Department of Education. Please note that the guidance in here is from the DfE not from CFS specifically.

- [Guidance for primary children learning at home](#)
- [Guidance for children with special educational needs learning at home](#)

ALL: Online Safety

Please find a link to further guidance and resources regarding [online safety](#).

YEAR 11 & 13: GCSE and A-Level Results

Over Easter myself and teachers have been really scrutinising all of the guidance that we sent to you just before the holidays regarding how GCSE and A-Level results will be awarded this year. We understand that this is a very concerning time for all pupils in these year groups, and do please continue to contact us if you have any specific concerns - I have already spoken to many pupils personally as I know Mrs Tulley, Year 11 tutors and Mr Apsey have as well. I will be writing to all Year 11 and 13 students again in the next couple of weeks as the process continues. We have also heard that the Results Days will now remain as previously published – 13th August for A Levels and 20th August for GCSEs.

Can I please ask that all Year 11 parents with children who have Prom tickets let Mrs Potts know about the proposal to postpone, rather than delay, the Year 11 Prom. We are struggling to make a decision without understanding how pupils feel about this.

YEAR 10 & 12: GCSE and A Level Work

I wrote specifically to Year 12 students over the holiday, and Mrs Tulley has been in contact with all of Year 10. We are acutely aware, as all school leaders are nationally, of the position these year groups are also in. As mentioned in the section about schools reopening, we are planning for every eventuality and Year 10 and 12 will be at the forefront of our plans and decisions with their final exams being so close. School leaders nationally are making it very clear to the 'powers that be' that these year groups will be just as affected but this situation as the current Year 11s and 13s, although obviously in a very different way, and I strongly believe that it can't simply be 'business as usual' when we return. That said, the best thing Year 10 and 12 students can do at present is to keep on top of the work we are setting as much as possible; it is of great concern to teachers that some Year 10 pupils are not currently engaging in any of the remote learning. Thank you and well done to all those pupils who are doing their very best at the moment.

We are also encouraging Year 10 to engage with the iDEA project work on SMHW – huge congratulations to Sam Munday for being top of the CFS rankings at present!

YEAR 9: Guided Choices

Mr Elliman has been working hard on finalising the blocking for the Year 10 timetable next year. At CFS, we pride ourselves on not putting subjects in blocks at the start of the process, which allows us to instead respond to the needs and requests of each particular cohort. This does of course mean that not all pupils' first requests are possible, as was explained in the Guided Choices booklet. Mr Elliman has managed to keep the number of pupils who are unable to study their first choices to an absolute minimum and is contacting those pupils directly at the moment. All pupils should receive confirmation of their GCSE choices next week.

ALL: Justice Term Reports

As mentioned on Monday, we are intending to send out Justice Term pupil reports next week. However, we are using an online distribution system for the first time, due to the situation we are in, and aligning this with our own database does take time. If there is any further delay to these reports we will let you know, but thank you very much for your patience in this matter.

ALL: Celebrating Work

Thank you to all of you who have been sharing your remote learning with me. There is a huge amount to share with you all, including a homemade Marwell experience, communication with Frank Cottrell Boyce, and Charles Darwin projects. However, this week I wanted to share with you some of the Easter challenge work that was submitted – links back in the main email – and so will share the remote learning examples next week. Thank you again to everyone who took part in the Easter Challenge. We are unable to showcase all of your amazing work, but the links give you a taster of the amazing creativity that is alive and kicking throughout both the primary and secondary phases of CFS.

ALL: Enrichment

Following on from my email at the start of the Easter holiday, please find listed some virtual enrichment opportunities for both you and your children. As always, parental guidance with all online resources is advised:

- [National Theatre Resources](#)
- [Local Nature Partnership](#)
- [Chichester Festival Theatre Creative Workshops](#)
- [Royal Albert Hall resources](#)
- [Young Minds Give and Cake](#)
- [The British Museum](#)
- [BBC Audio Books](#)

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