

17 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family have had a restful and healthy Easter break and your child is looking forward to returning to the daily structure that his/her studies provide during this continued lockdown period.

The wellbeing survey we conducted with students and staff at the end of last term has reassured us that students have been able to access work, that they have been pleased to maintain contact with staff via email and IT systems and that they are supporting each other via various social media communities. Students told us that missing contact with their friends and finding their own self-motivation have been the biggest challenges for them. Where students have reported individual concerns members of staff will be in touch at the start of term.

Over the break staff have taken on board some of the constructive feedback students offered in response to our question "How might the work being set during school closure be improved?" Students suggested it might be helpful to have work broken into smaller chunks with clearer deadlines and we have addressed this via some tweaks to the folder structure on the school P: Drive. Learning activities are broken down lesson by lesson, across subjects, for the next two weeks. Tasks set prior to Easter have been moved to archive folders, hopefully making it clear to students what has gone before and what needs tackling next.

We continue to recommend students roughly follow their usual timetable as a helpful way of structuring their day and ensuring they continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum. They have been contacted today, reminding them to balance their work with good rest breaks, exercise and some other activities that they enjoy at home. We have also asked them to regularly check their emails as staff would like to contact them and support their work. This term we will continue to monitor students' wellbeing with a follow up survey at the end of the second week, whilst teachers will continue to be online daily, interacting with students and providing advice and feedback on their work. Some teachers will be trialling Microsoft Teams learning, primarily with older students.

Whilst there are national rumours around when schools might reopen we have no official steer on this yet. However, senior staff are planning what that might look like. Our priority will be keeping students safe and healthy when they return, identifying and addressing any gaps in knowledge and restoring the sense of community so important to both our students and their teachers. We will advise students that when school reopens they bring into school key pieces of work they have managed to complete over the school closure period so that teachers are able to review their progress and support them as necessary. We recognise that some students will have been able to do more than others and simply ask that you support your child to do what they can manage and make school work an important part of every term time weekday.

We continue to update the website. Information this week will include a fact sheet for parents of Year 11 and 13 students who would have taken examinations this summer, as well as a copy of a leaflet produced by Lincolnshire County Council which offers hints and tips to young people on how to manage life during the coronavirus lockdown.

We continue to provide supervision (next week at Carre's Grammar School from 9am to 3.30pm, and then alternating weeks at Kesteven and Sleaford High School) for the children of key workers and for our vulnerable students. Please do drop us a line to let us know to expect your child if they need a place.

If you have any queries please do contact us as always via enquiries@carres.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N M Law', with a small flourish at the end.

N M Law
Headteacher