

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have all managed to juggle the various demands of work, social distancing/isolation, and home schooling in these unusual times. Informal feedback from students is that the tweaks we have made to setting work since Easter is suiting them better. Activities and assignments seem to be more broken down, with clearer deadlines, and staff are telling me that the majority are engaging with the work. There are some, however, who are not, and I would encourage you to discuss with your child what they are doing and how it is going, from their perspective.

Several classes, mostly in Years 10 and 12 this week, have taken up the opportunity to check in with their subject teachers in Microsoft Teams classes or seminars. As teacher and student confidence with this form of technology grows we anticipate more frequent opportunities with concentration on Year 10 and 12 in the first instance, but also more with lower school students. Please bear with the staff on this as this is a whole new way of working for them, as it is for the students.

Year 9 Options are currently being reviewed and Mr Wilkinson has been in contact with students already about this, and by 8 May will have completed the process and will be in contact again to let students know about their options.

For those students who completed the wellbeing survey just before Easter and either scored themselves lower than others or raised queries, the Head of Year team and tutors have spent the week following up students and parents. Please be aware that staff are contacting students by email and some parents by phone, so when 'No Caller ID' comes up on your phone, it may be one of the Heads of Year. They have been advised to leave a message so that you are aware that they have called.

We are in regular touch with our vulnerable students and remind you that both RCT schools are taking it in turn to open for key workers' children and those deemed vulnerable. Please do not hesitate to use that facility. We have a small number of students each day, specialist teachers on hand, and we supervise under tight social distancing guidelines. We plan to survey all students again next week; please do encourage your child to respond or get in touch with us via enquiries@carres.uk with any concerns.

There is no shortage of advice from the media during this pandemic about everything from home schooling to maintaining good mental and physical health. We are sifting through all of that to bring our young people the most relevant support and advice.

Resources

You may have seen that there is a myriad of resources now available to support learning. For example, www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize and www.thenational.academy/ are offering parents and students national access to some live daily lessons. Our staff are aware of these resources and incorporating them into the remote learning planning that

can be found on the P:\drive when they complement or contribute to the schemes of work we would like our young people to be studying. In some cases, the material doesn't cater as well for more able students so we do not recommend their use as a replacement for the work set by staff.

I would like to draw your attention a resource that I came across that I would recommend: *Speakers for Schools - Virtual Talks programme*. This is an opportunity for students to join talks from today's leading figures via specially designed Microsoft Teams talks and no logins are required. Students can view following the link [here](#). Then they should click WATCH TALK LIVE HERE followed by 'Watch on web instead' and sign in anonymously. The speakers will appear at the set times e.g. 10am and 2pm.

Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership

The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum, which is currently coordinating the response to the pandemic across the county, is keen to understand how our communities are coping during this pandemic, including the financial and social implications on our residents. If you have time they would be grateful if you could complete their survey:

<http://spr.ly/6184126sE>

They have also published information on their *Stay Safe Website* covering a range of topics:

- [Healthy relationships](#)
- [Hate crime awareness activities and resources](#)
- [Factsheet - what is sexual consent?](#)
- [Online safety - using apps and games](#)
- [Online radicalisation - parent/guardian information and support](#)
- [Alcohol awareness activity](#)
- [Cannabis Factsheet and Activities for Years 9+ \(Age 13-18\)](#)
- [Cannabis factsheet and activity for years six to eight \(age 10 to 13\)](#)
- [Video Chatting: A Guide for parents and carers of secondary age children - <https://parentinfo.org/article/video-chatting-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-of-secondary-school-age-children>](#)

In the meantime, please see the links below if you have any queries.

- For all learning or student support related enquiries please contact: enquiries@carres.uk This inbox is monitored throughout the school day and your email will be directed to the relevant member of staff.
- For any queries related to Free School Meals or finance related questions such as refunds for cancelled school events please contact: finance@robertcarretrust.uk
- Queries about the administration of examinations (e.g. statements of entry for Year 11 or 13) can be addressed to our examinations manager: tracey.williams@carres.uk.

- Details regarding the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on summer exams can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>
- If you want advice about keeping your child safe online we recommend these unlimited free online safety guides www.nationalonlinesafety.com/guides or the attached factsheet.

Thank you for your continued support and kind messages; they continue to be much appreciated and help to lift the spirits of the staff.

Yours faithfully

N M Law
Headteacher