

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7-9 students

As we end the most extraordinary of terms I would like to thank you to all the messages of support that have come during the period of school closure. There has been an acknowledgement and appreciation of the communication process and work that our staff have put in has been very much appreciated and lifts the staff spirits when we receive them.

This week there has already been communication and consultation with parents of students in Years 10 and 12 as we start to make plans for a partial reopening of the school. Please be assured that that will only happen when we can demonstrate it is as safe as possible to do so. We anticipate that could be on 8 June but we await further government instruction next week. We are very conscious that students currently in Years 7-9 will inevitably see a continuation to remote learning for some weeks to come. It is important therefore that they continue to feel safe, that Carre's community is there to support them every school day and that that they continue to make academic progress.

My communication last week, that we had reviewed the workload for students, was met with an overwhelmingly positive response but I also received a concern from a small number of parents who didn't feel a reduction in work was right for their children. Our decision to have a 'consolidation, catch up and extension week' this past week and to look again at the amount of work being set was the result of a notable number of parental concerns, student concerns raised in the wellbeing survey and feedback from staff who are in regular communication with their classes via email. We estimate that fewer than 30% of our Key Stage 3 students are privileged enough to have access to a tablet or laptop for the whole school day, many are understandably sharing devices across a family, and whilst practically all have smartphones we appreciate this is not always the best way to access academic work. The Government laptop scheme has provided us with just 4 new laptops for disadvantaged students in Year 10, we have purchased other devices for our most disadvantaged in the lower school and lent out some of the mobile school devices. Next half term please look out for a parent survey so we can more accurately understand how your child is managing in the current situation.

Some of you have expressed a hope for an increase in the use of video lessons. Mostly these have been taking place across a range of Year 10 and Year 12 lessons as well as being used for demonstrations in some of our practical subjects and tutor time sessions for Key Stage 3. As Year 10 and 12 start to return to some face to face teaching we hope to increase Microsoft Teams opportunities for Key stage 3 students. Next half term you will also see enrichment and optional extension work added to lesson content and the publication of some reading lists that tie in with the topics Key Stage 3 students are studying across subject areas.

Please do keep in touch with us on any matter. The hardest thing about working remotely is being able quickly to ascertain whether our strategies are having the intended effect. I guarantee that our staff are working tirelessly on behalf of all our students, whilst sometimes juggling the demands of parenting or caring for vulnerable loved ones too just as many of you are. I wish you a pleasant and healthy half term break. Work will be available, as ever, on the Pupil Drive of the school network for the 1 June.

Personal, social, health and economic and citizenship (PSHEC) education

Sadly, the activities planned for PSHEC during Terms 5 and 6 have either had to be cancelled or postponed. We are pleased to be able to direct students to an increasing range of resources which can be integrated into their home learning. Details are available in the PSHEC School Closure folder

on the Pupil Work Drive and currently topics include: Alcohol Awareness, Dental Health, Online Safety, Sleep and First Aid.

Earlier in the year Carre's had been invited to take part in a pilot programme to help trial an exciting new initiative from British Red Cross, the **First Aid Champions** learning resource. The resource, which was initially going to be used in school, has now been released for home learning. There are 17 short modules which include PowerPoints, video clips and quizzes. In the first instance, we would like all students in Years 7 – 10 to attempt three modules:

- Helping someone who is bleeding heavily,
- Helping someone who has a burn,
- Helping someone who has a head injury.

Emails will be sent to all students at the beginning of Term 6 with logging on information and a unique ID for their First Aid Champions learning. Signing in with their own ID allows students to return to their learning at times which suit them and also allows us to monitor use, track progress and evaluate the resource. Please be assured no student information has been shared with the resource providers. Hopefully the launch of these home learning resources will be straightforward but should issues arise a Frequently Asked Questions folder will be added to the First Aid Champions folder in the PSHEC School Closure folder to inform users how to request help and of known problems/solutions.

We are planning to add to our PSHEC home learning resources over the coming weeks and if you would like to suggest any additional topics please do not hesitate to contact Mrs J Livsey, PSHEC Coordinator, via enquiries@carres.uk

Finally, I would like to wish you all a pleasant break.