

Dear Parent/Carer

Staff, students and parents have been working hard over the last few weeks in extraordinary circumstances and I feel that we are all beginning to feel the strain. Feedback from our wellbeing surveys suggest that this is the case. Some students are reporting that they are finding that a lot of work is being set, or that limited or shared IT access means they cannot always complete as much as they are being encouraged to do. Whilst it is very hard to judge remotely the right length of tasks for all students please be assured that we are addressing this with staff. Please just let your child know that they are only expected to do what they can but that they should be tackling some school work every day as part of their lockdown routine. We continue to advise them to roughly follow their normal timetables in order to maintain a broad and balanced study plan, but they do not need to be working for five hours a day.

I suggest that we use the weekend as an opportunity to step away from the school work and enjoy time together without feeling the need to do any work and as a result the school will not be open this Bank Holiday Friday, 8 May. Provision the following week for children of key workers will be at Kesteven and Sleaford High School. Please let us know via enquiries@kshs.uk if you need a place for your child between 11 and 15 May.

Digital Access

We are aware that many of our students are in households where there is limited access to a computer and have applied through the Government scheme for laptops to support students currently in Year 10 who qualify for Free School Meals.

Year 11 into Sixth Form Transition

Work for Year 11 students planning to study at any of the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form (SJSF) sites is now live and available via the SJSF website www.sleafordjsf.org/transition-packs. Staff have set slightly more work than in previous years to ensure that students cover any missed work from their GCSE courses, so they are fully prepared for Level 3 courses. Please do contact the school if you haven't yet received a letter containing option choices and induction arrangements.

Partial reopening of schools

Like many of you we await with interest the news from the Government this weekend on any lifting of lockdown restrictions. We will be in touch as soon as we can to share any plans for what we are led to believe will be the partial reopening of schools. Please be assured that tentative planning is already underway and leaders in the town's secondary schools meet on a regular basis, with this high on the agenda. The Local Authority aims to present its plans next week, and once we have clarity we shall relay this to you.

Year 8 Reports

Due to the school closure we did not have a Year 8 Parents' Evening to discuss the progress of the students, so in its place staff have written reports. These are available to view on e-portal.

Access to ePortal is at <https://eportal.carres.uk/eportal/index.jsp>. The results can be accessed in 'Reports' and then opening 'Y8 subject report online'.

If you have not set up parental access to ePortal, please follow the guidance at <http://www.carres.uk/site/section/eaccess/default.asp>. If you have already signed up but have forgotten your details, you will need to re-register at the above address. Please note that this is not an automated system: ICT support has to go through each request and manually activate accounts so it can take a while if we get a backlog – please be patient.

