

31st March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope that you are all well and that you and your families are staying safe during this difficult time.

I would like to thank you for all of the supportive messages we have been receiving as a school over the past two weeks. We have worked at a significant pace to establish new ways to support you and your children to maintain a level of contact and a sense of community with the school. With this in mind, I have asked my pastoral team to contact all families over the coming weeks to maintain that much needed connection and ensure that you feel that you are supported, albeit remotely.

We are aware that there have been some issues with Teams and as a Trust we are working hard to resolve these as swiftly as possible; I am sure you can imagine that setting up these platforms in such a short space of time is not without its challenges! I would like to thank my staff for being incredibly generous with their time in learning how best to utilise online learning platforms to ensure our students are able to continue their education with us, as best they can. If you are having problems logging on then please use the following link to inform us and a member of the team will be in touch.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jmmNvDeipcZ-i35FnXnFLpag28hUMVpOTUtUSVBJMDFTN0YxRU1YTjIMVv1UMC4u.

I also want to reassure you of the expectations around you and your child at this time. We know that within each household, there will be a different level of connectivity and access to devices and we appreciate that this will be a challenge for you to manage. We also understand that as parents you will be juggling a great deal at the moment, not least for many of you working from home whilst trying to support your child's learning opportunities. All we would ask is that your child tries to access some of the learning from each subject over the course of the week. We also hope that our daily information regards 'live learning' opportunities will enable you to plan and manage this access as best you can – we will look for this to become a more concrete timetable after Easter. These opportunities have been really well received by students who have accessed them.

If you are a keyworker and require support with supervision of your child over the Easter break, we will be able to provide this at our Trust hub at Penhale School. I ask that you inform us before midday on Friday 3rd April if you intend to access this provision. We will need to ensure that the staff leading the Penhale hub are clear about who they are expecting and on which day. There will not be any provision at The Portsmouth Academy over this two week period. You can find the form by holding down the ctrl key and clicking on this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jmmNvDeipcZ-i35FnXnFLpag28hUOVVDQVnKv5aU0NwTDZHSjdNT0Q2UURCMi4u

After the Easter break TPA's vulnerable and keyworker provision will become a hub school for both our children and for Miltoncross. Both schools will have a member of staff on site at TPA and all social distancing protocol will be followed.

Moving forwards, I will be looking to streamline communications to you in a weekly bulletin. This will be available on our website and updated each week, we will alert you via text and email when this goes live. It will contain key updates, 'How to' guides for using our online platforms and messages from Heads of Year.

Thank you once again for everything that you are currently doing to support your child in their learning at this time.

Stay safe and well,



Mrs Rachel Grey,
Principal