



**30 March 2020**

## **Dear Parent / Carer**

I hope you and your families are managing to stay well. These are very difficult times when Faith and Kindness are essential to sustaining emotional and physical well being of ourselves and each other.

We are all exceptionally proud of all the keyworker parents who are working so hard in very difficult circumstances. I would particularly like to thank so many parents who, when we have phoned home, have been so supportive and appreciative. I just wish that we could do more, however, we must remain within the Government guidelines. This means we must follow the government advice to stay at home to protect the NHS and help save lives.

The Government guidance is clear that parents should keep children at home wherever possible and thank you to everyone across our community who has followed that advice today. The fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in our community classrooms, the lower the risk of the virus spreading.

## **School Work for your child**

Under very difficult circumstances, we are doing all we can to ensure that our students continue with their learning. There have been some challenges with Show My Homework due to the national demand, but we are gradually resolving the issues. There will be plenty of work available to your child and as of next week we will be monitoring the completion of the work and may ring parents should we find that students are not doing any of the work.

Due to the technical issues, students will not receive any form of 'sanction' for not meeting the deadline. We do urge you to help your child to develop a routine and to follow their normal school timetable for the week beginning 30 March 2020.

We have created an email address to provide parents and students with direct support for their on-line learning:

[online-learning@arkalexandra.org](mailto:online-learning@arkalexandra.org) .

After Easter, we will be adjusting the working schedule to take account of the limited access to IT devices within any one household and we will share the timetable with you very soon.

I hope you will have had a 'keeping in touch' phone call from a member of our staff. We will do our best to sustain weekly or bi-weekly contact with you and / or your child. If we can support or help in any way, please do not hesitate to ask.

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL: Yvonne Powell, OBE  
REGIONAL ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL: Victoria Cockram

## **Year 11 GCSEs / A level Exams**

Although we are awaiting further guidance from Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator, the information they have given us so far is that they are developing a fair and robust process to awarding grades this year, that takes into account a broad range of evidence including:

- Prior attainment
- Predicted grades
- Teacher assessment
- Controlled assessment/Coursework

Therefore it is important that year 11 and year 13 students keep studying as:

- Their work may still have an influence on their grades
- They will need to ensure they are best prepared for the demands and rigour of A-level and Further Education
- If students were not happy with the grades awarded, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again.

We have tried to contact every year 11 and year 13 student to ensure that they are still committing to their learning and they are completing the work on Show My Homework, Hegarty Maths and SENECA.

For year 13 students, the Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Mr Hamilton, will be sharing further information, guidance and support, BUT as stated above for year 11, it should be assumed that the same principles will apply, and the mock exams grades will be considered.

## **Supporting parents and families**

Week beginning 30 March 2020, we will be adding further information to the web site that will:

- a. Support the well being of students, parents and families
- b. Provide ideas and activities that families share
- c. Signpost various web sites and resources that may be useful.

I know you are all trying to support your child in managing their time and completing their work, which we greatly appreciate. We will be providing advice and guidance to assist you in this venture.

## **Free School Meals**

As of the week beginning 30 March, we will be issuing food vouchers to eligible parents. You will be contacted directly and given specific guidance.

Whilst our resources are limited, we shall continue to try and support families who are in need. Should you need our assistance, please do call the school or email us and we will do our best to help.

## **Staying in Touch**

We shall continue to call you throughout the coming weeks, resource allowing.

Over the next week we will be reviewing different methods to sustain some form of interactive or visual communication, for example, we are planning year group assemblies as well as tutor period / PSHE sessions. This will be an invaluable medium for students to see and hear their staff and it will enable us to try to sustain a 'connection' with our students.

We will keep you informed accordingly.

I sincerely hope that you and your family stay well and healthy. We are thinking of and missing our students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Powell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yvonne Powell  
Executive Principal.