



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

Thank you for your many messages of support over this recent period of unprecedented uncertainty and complications relating to the Coronavirus.

I am writing to let you know that after careful thought and discernment we have decided to move to guided distance learning through Google classroom from Monday 23rd March for the last week of term. Teaching and pastoral care will operate remotely for that week.

In making this decision, which has the full support of the Leadership team and the Governors, we have balanced current Government advice to schools against its advice to the general public. Crucially the welfare and safety of your children has been at the heart of our decision making. As more students and staff need to stay at home the educational experience of your children would become compromised, and we feel it is best to create alternative excellent online provision.

In the next two days students will be briefed on remote working. They will need to get themselves ready to work at home collecting the books and materials that they will need. Teachers will be coming into School next week wherever possible to produce work, monitor progress and check on student welfare. We have trained all teaching staff in remote operation and will be offering guidance to parents and students on how this work can be accessed, and how you can be involved as parents. This information will follow on Friday 20th March. We will be providing both a core curriculum and an extended offering for broad development and interest.

We will be focussing next week on teaching and learning but tutors will also contact you to see how students are getting on personally and academically. As an exception we would ask the small number of Year 11 students who are part of the GCSE Art exam, and those students who are still to complete the GCSE DT practical element, to attend on both Monday 23rd March and Tuesday 24th March from 8.15am to 4.15pm. Class teachers will contact those involved with detailed arrangements. School transport will not run next week.

Our boarding houses will be open until Friday 27th March at 1.00pm for those who are remaining and cannot leave early. Our students and staff have been exceptional in this period of uncertainty and our community and values have been self-evident. Our teaching and support staff will continue to do all they can to keep the School operational next week. We remain very much 'open for business', albeit of a different nature.

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www.leightonpark.com

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Page 2

We will keep in contact with families whose children are due to take public examinations this summer as soon as information becomes available from relevant authorities. I understand this is an anxious time for those students, but we urge them to continue their preparations and revise as planned, drawing on our remote assistance and guidance.

We will communicate with you around 14th April over the start of term management and plans for the Summer Term.

Once again, I express my sincere gratitude for your patience and good will and wish you and your family good health for the times ahead.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Judd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Matthew Judd
Head

