



21 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

I hope that you and your family are safe and well. It has been a very difficult time for the whole country but there does seem to be a very gradual return to things that will feel more familiar.

Unfortunately it doesn't look like secondary schools will be returning to normal service for some time yet which is very frustrating for students, parents and staff. As you will know the Government has announced plans to bring back students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 at Primary level from June 1st and plans for this are well advanced. The Government has stated their intention for schools to be providing some face to face contact for students in Year 10 and Year 12 but as yet, have not provided us with the guidance needed for us to do so. This guidance was due to be issued on Monday and there is still no sign of it! I was hoping to have included more details about our plans for Year 10 and Year 12 students in this letter but until I have read the guidance I cannot do so - I am sorry about this. We are very frustrated about this delay and I know that students in Year 10 and Year 12 will be too. However, despite our annoyance, it is important to remember that the guidance will contain all of the essential safety advice; this, of course, has to be the number one priority.

Home learning is increasingly looking like a long term feature of secondary education and we are really pleased with how many students have been engaging with the learning activities that have been provided. There continues to be excellent work produced across the year groups and fewer and fewer difficulties in accessing the work. Much of the work that is set is published to students through Google Classroom. We are producing some video guides for parents to help them understand how this works and you will be able to access these on our website soon.

We are now coming to the end of the first half of the summer term and about to start the half term break. Teachers will not be setting work for the holiday week or expecting students to be submitting work to them. I hope that the week off will provide a welcome break from the home learning routine for students, staff and parents. Hopefully the weather will remain fine and we can enjoy some time outdoors whilst still observing the rules.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate our way through this new education environment that we are working in. I have had some lovely and very thoughtful emails from parents recently expressing their gratitude for the support that they have received from Lord Grey staff. Thank you for this - it is much appreciated. We are always open to suggestions about how we can improve things too so please do get in contact.

Yours sincerely

Jim Parker
Principal

