



17 April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Welcome back to the new school term. I hope that you managed to enjoy at least part of the Easter break - the weather was kind to us which made the daily walk or cycle around the neighbourhood a pleasant experience. Sadly the Academy remains closed as we continue to support measures to reduce the spread of Coronavirus but it is now the beginning of the summer term and there is still a lot of learning to be done.

For the first week back we will be broadly following the same approach as we did at the end of last term. Learning activities will continue to be set through the homework feature of GO 4 Schools and the normal school timetable will be followed.

We have had lots of helpful feedback from parents about the experiences of home learning and we will do our best to respond to this over the coming weeks. We are planning learning activities that should take no more than 30 minutes per subject. If your son or daughter wants to do more then that is fine and they are welcome to look at the many resources that are available. If it is a struggle to complete the work set then please don't force the issue; we know that learning from home is hard. If this is the case do not hesitate to contact the form tutor for advice. Having a routine is often an important part of our life and in these conditions our routines change. Having some school work to do is a good routine, so embrace this even if the routine doesn't quite take place at the time that you would expect it to - see my comment about sleeping teenagers later! We will write to parents about year group specific learning issues during this first week back.

We know that the current restrictions will remain in operation for a number of weeks and we are very aware of the challenge that this poses to many families in our community. There is lots of uncertainty about the security of jobs, the future shape of the local economy and when we might be able to return to some degree of normal life.

The stay at home guidance has been well observed in our community and from looking at the data shared daily by the Government it looks like our sacrifices are making an impact. However, over the last four weeks, families have found themselves in unfamiliar circumstances and that sometimes brings pressures. Many of you have excellent networks of family and friends who you can rely on for support and a listening ear, but if things are difficult at home please remember that we can help. I know many parents have greatly appreciated having a chat with members of staff over the last few weeks. Sometimes it is just reassuring to know that the thing that you are worried about is being worried about by lots of other parents too - I wonder how many of you are thinking is it normal for your teenager to become nocturnal for example? If we can't help then we can direct you to someone who can.

Free School Meals

Normally free school meals are accessed through the school canteen but during the school closure period this can't continue so the Government have introduced a system of vouchers to purchase food instead. If you would like to find out more about free school meals and to find out more about eligibility you can find the relevant information by following this link to our school website: [The Canteen & Free School Meals](#) If you are already in receipt of free school meals, please look out for an email from us that explains some changes in the way that you will receive vouchers going forward.

I know that the teachers are looking forward to getting back to teaching their students again. Although home learning is a poor substitute for learning in the classroom it will be good to get back into a routine. I will continue to write to parents on a regular basis but please remember that there is lots of information on our website about home learning, materials to support mental health and wellbeing and what to do if you are concerned about the safety of children.

Thank you for your continued support of Lord Grey Academy.

Yours sincerely

Jim Parker
Principal

