



20 March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Following the Government announcement yesterday evening that all schools in the UK will be closed until further notice I am writing to you to outline our plans for the period that Lord Grey Academy is closed.

We have been planning for a possible shutdown for a number of weeks and staff have been working hard to prepare resources that will help students access education provision over the period of closure. It is very important that students keep their brains active during the period of closure and not see it as simply an extended holiday.

It is our aim to provide learning activities for each timetabled lesson of the day. Your child will receive their work through:

- the GO 4 Schools homework system (for those students without internet access we are preparing paper based resources) with clear instructions for the activities that they need to complete for each subject in that week;
- students will receive regular messages through GO 4 Schools asking them if they have any questions about the work and inviting them to email any concerns to their teacher using their Lord Grey Academy email address;
- there will be several learning activities that require the students to log-in to one of the many learning platforms that we use. When they do this and complete the tasks that have been set, their teacher will be able to track their progress and see which activities have been completed;
- many of these activities self-mark, so students will get instant feedback.

We strongly recommend that students follow their normal school timetable at home but with the expectation that each lesson activity will take less time than a taught 'face to face' lesson. The research shows that remote learning is better done in shorter bursts, so rather than each lesson being an hour, it is likely that each virtual lesson will be 25-30 minutes long.

Teachers will be setting the work based on your child's normal timetable. If they have Maths, English, Geography and Science on a Tuesday, they will be set work on those subjects. If they have PE then please encourage them to do something physical.

Your child has been told to ensure that they know their log in details and passwords for all of the commonly used resources that they can access. Many of them can be accessed from a mobile phone. They will need to know how to log on to GO 4 Schools and their Lord Grey Academy email address. If your child is experiencing difficulties accessing the work then your child's form tutor will probably be able to help. In addition to the set work that we will send to you each week, there are many resources out there on the internet and on the television that will be good for general educational development. An extra long break from school is always a good time to read too.

Your child's form tutor will be in contact with you too to check how things are going and you will continue to receive updates from me via ParentMail during the period of school closure. We know that sometimes important safety issues crop up outside of school hours and if parents have any



safeguarding concerns then please email your child's tutor and the safeguarding team email: safeteam@lordgrey.org.uk In addition there are a number of helpful resources about safeguarding your children on the Lord Grey Academy website. **Click [here](#).**

Finally, it is important to be clear about expectations and the realities of what can be achieved during a period of school closure like this. We hope that you will encourage your child to access the learning materials as described, but we know that there will be challenges with this.

Remote learning via the internet is no substitution for the interaction, engagement and progress that you experience in the classroom and it is very difficult to deliver new material to students without seeing them in person. The resources that we have provided in most cases will re-cap previous knowledge and provide opportunities to explore a wider range of examples and applications. It is also quite possible that one or more of your child's teachers are ill during the closure or attending to members of their families, so it is likely that there will be interruptions to the service we plan to provide. We also, do not know how long the closure will be and planning learning activities beyond a three or four week period is very difficult and therefore we may need to implement different plans should it be necessary.

In the meantime, I hope that you stay healthy and fit. These are extraordinary times and often in the moments of greatest difficulty, people come together to support each other. I know that in our close knit community this will be the case and I urge you to look out for one another, support those who are vulnerable and draw strength from knowing that there will be better times ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of the Academy.

Jim Parker
Principal

Click [here](#) for Useful remote learning sites.