

Dear Families and Carers,

I hope you are navigating your way through these uncertain times and are finding ways to make the current restrictions bearable. Thank you for the feedback you have provided to me over the last two weeks. It has been very useful to help us plan for a longer period of time when the pupils will not be at school and support you as best we can in ways that you find helpful.

I need to emphasise that we are not remote learning experts and are on a steep learning curve ourselves with setting work in this way. The staff all have different home circumstances and are balancing this and supporting the pupils as best they can during the closure.

School Closure Update

We continue to be uncertain about the length of the school closure and we will continue to review the situation but for **now we are closed until further notice**.

From Monday 20th April we will resume the emergency school for pupils with an EHCP, those that meet the vulnerable definition set by the Government and for key worker pupils but this will be overseen by Hammersmith & Fulham with support from schools to establish a hub system within the borough. I will communicate this to you early next week once the hub schools have been agreed. There is provision for key worker pupils over Easter that is being run by Latymer Upper School and Safe Camp run by London Sports Trust.

Free School Meal (FSM) Vouchers

We have decided to send out another £25 supermarket voucher over the Easter holidays as we know some of our families are struggling. The vouchers have been ordered but I am not sure when I will get them but as soon as they arrive I will post them out to you.

After Easter we move to the new Government scheme which means that any family who qualifies for FSM will get a £15 voucher each week which can be spent in one of six supermarkets. This will be sent to you electronically and based on the email we currently hold for you and there is a fact sheet attached which should help to answer your queries about how the scheme will operate after Easter. Please email Admin@phoenixacademy.org.uk if you need to update the email address we hold for you. If you have recently found yourselves in circumstances where you find yourself qualifying for FSM you need to complete the application form from your Local Authority and send it back to your Local Authority as they process the claim not the school. The link for Hammersmith and Fulham is below:

<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/education-support-services/school-meals>

The sooner you can do this the better. Please use the enquires email for any help you need or advice you need with this.

Remote Learning after Easter

As a parent of a twelve year old girl and an 18 month old son, I too have found home schooling a challenge to begin with and there are days when I feel it has gone well and days I feel less positive. We can't recreate all that a pupil has in school and I urge us all to be realistic and do our best and encourage our children to do the same. I know from your feedback it is hard to juggle the need to access IT within your family and the motivation of the pupils can vary.

To support we suggest the following:

1. Keep to the suggested timetable attached as a way of structuring your day.
2. Use of mix of on-line and printed resources.
3. We are now entering a holiday period of time so no work will be set but it will be back on Satchel One from Monday 20th April. It will be uploaded by the individual teachers of the classes.
4. From 27th April Year 10 will be able to access video/audio lessons.
5. We are monitoring Satchel One usage and are calling pupils/parents when we see very little time has been spent logging on and also praising pupils when we see high levels of usage or a big increase.
6. Some of you have asked for more clarity about the amount of time pupils should spend on the work and we will factor this into work set after Easter as well as post things at more regular times.
7. Please continue to send us feedback as it really helps us plan for the next period of potential closure.

Other online resources to explore:

Google Earth.

Tour world leading museums such as the Natural History, the Vatican, The Met, the V&A and the Uffizi museum online from home.

Sign up to an online coding camp at cyphercoders.com

Join Gareth Malone's community choir, the Great British Home Chorus.

Daily

9.00am - PE with Joe Wicks https://youtu.be/6v-a_dpwhro

10.00am - Maths with Carol Vorderman www.themathsfactor.com

11.00am - English with David Walliams <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

12.00pm - Lunch (cooking with Jamie Oliver) <https://www.jamieoliver.com/features/category/get-kids-cooking/>

1.00pm - Music with Myleene Klass

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrxYBn6jFXsXQ>

1.30pm - Dance with Darcey Bussell

<https://twitter.com/diversedancemix/status/1241098264373592065>

4.00pm - Home Economics with Theo Michaels (Mon/Wed/Fri)

<https://www.instagram.com/theocooks>

Non-daily events include:

Science with Professor Brian Cox, Robin Ince & Guests

<https://cosmicshambles.com/stayathome/upcoming-schedule>

For your older kids, here are 50 free revision resources for 11+, GCSEs and A-Levels:

http://www.eparenting.co.uk/education/50_free_revision_resources_for_gcse_a_level_11_plus_an_d_sats.php

Health and Well Being Resources

Childline: website <https://www.childline.org.uk> telephone: 0800 1111 (24 hours)

Young Minds: website <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Kooth – provide online counselling support: <https://www.kooth.com/>

Samaritans – provide a free 24- hour helpline for young people and adults. Their number is: 116 123 Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

Please see attached documents from our school counsellor.

I really miss our school community and am very grateful to all the staff that have supported the work that has gone on already to support their classes. I hope you and your families stay safe and well. Please continue to check the website for updates and we appreciate your feedback so far.

Best wishes,



Mr MacDowall

Principal