

# Queen Elizabeth High

## Update for Parents -



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this update finds you and your families all safe and well as we enter this new half term. I hope that you and your children have managed to have a full and meaningful break over the half term, even under the restrictions we currently all find ourselves.

### **This Week**

We are expecting an announcement from Kirsty Williams, the Minister for Education, tomorrow as regards the arrangements regarding exams and assessment for the coming year. As soon as we have received guidance we will share it with parents, pupils and students.

Our new look website has gone live today. It has all the information we feel you will need as parents. We are currently un the process of updating our school prospectus, however, please take the time to explore our new site which can be found by following this link:

<https://www.qehs.carms.sch.uk/>

It is also important this week, that pupils and students engage in their online learning and keep up to date with assessments set. This is important both in terms of maintaining momentum, keeping up to date and to provide staff with the evidence that might be required to support predicted grades.

### **Arrangements around setting work during lockdown**

Before half term it was confirmed that secondary schools will re-open after the half-term for pupils in Years 7 and 8 only, whilst other pupils will continue their learning from home for that week. We already have arrangements in place for 'blended learning' following the first lockdown, in case of any further disruption. This will include teachers delivering a mixture of online lessons from the classroom, pre-recorded lessons, tasks set via google classrooms and assessments online.

The arrangement as regards work set for pupils is outlined in the table below:

<b>Year groups</b>	<b>Expectations</b>
7 and 8	Pupils will return to school and follow their normal timetable in face to face lessons.
9 and 10	Teachers will set one task/lesson in each subject over the week. The work will be on Google Classroom.
11,12 and 13	Pupils will follow their normal timetable at home. Lessons will take place in line with their timetable. These lessons will include a mixture of live streaming and google classroom.

We would urge all our learners to maintain good routines while studying from home. Outlined below is some guidance to help you:

## **MAKING THE MOST OF ONLINE LEARNING**

1. Start your day in the right way. Get up early, get dressed, have some breakfast so that you are ready for online lessons.
2. Check your timetable each day so you know what lessons you have.
3. Let your teachers know you are there and ready to learn via Google Classroom.
4. Make sure you are set up in a comfortable environment that is quiet enough to concentrate on your work and has space for you to complete your tasks.
5. Turn off other things that might be a distraction (e.g. video games)
6. Have a supply of drinks and snacks with you.
7. Make sure you schedule in some exercise during the day.
8. Whilst it is important you engage with all of your lessons you must also ensure you take short, regular breaks away from a screen to stretch your legs and avoid getting headaches from staring at a screen too long.
9. Your teachers will chunk up work for you and always give you an estimated timescale for tasks. If you are unsure on this make sure you ask your teacher.
10. Teachers will offer a range of lessons including research tasks, streamed lessons, video content and structured tasks. Make sure you are present at the start of the lesson to see what tasks the teacher sets for you. After that the teacher may expect you to complete work independently. You can communicate and ask questions via google classroom and in live streamed lessons. Make sure to ask questions if you are unclear of what to do or if you are stuck.
11. Make sure that you complete all tasks set and submit assessed work for marking on the deadline set.
12. Get to bed early ready for the next day.

### **ICT Provision**

As we enter another phase of teaching online, we want to ensure that our pupils and students have the support they will need while learning from home. From today, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, if you require any support regarding ICT then please contact our ICT helpdesk: [ithelp@qehs.carms.sch.uk](mailto:ithelp@qehs.carms.sch.uk)

### **Online Support for wellbeing:**

Maintaining a healthy wellbeing during times of lockdown is important. Each year group has a pastoral Google Classroom where the Heads of Learning will be posting information for pupils, running virtual assemblies, and keeping in touch with their year group in a variety of ways.

Parents in Years 9, 10 and 11 may also receive wellbeing calls this week as part of our programme of keeping in touch. We have also collated some useful links to support families at these times. We will making them available of our website. We hope you find them useful.

#### Resources:

- There are some really useful links on the NSPCC website: COVID-19, keeping safe online information, resources and elearning discounts to help you protect children during this challenging time <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
- Association for Young People's Health The Association for Young People's Health (AYPH) is the UK's leading independent voice for young people's health. We work to improve the health and wellbeing of 10-24 year olds. Their newsletter includes resources that AYPH has published during the lockdown: <http://www.youngpeopleshealth.org.uk/>
- Meditations online can help with general well-being (they are currently offering FREE unlimited access to the Meditainment Library): <https://www.meditainment.com/>
- Thinkuknow CEOP Education Team have prepared Home activity packs to support parents during COVID-19 a. Each fortnight, there will be new home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities you can do with your child to support their online safety at a time when they will be spending more time online at home: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

### **Communication**

#### **Email Addresses**

It is more important than ever before to ensure the school has up to date contact details and active email addresses for all our parents. If you have not been receiving texts or emails from the school, please contact us on the numbers below to update your details.

#### **Important Numbers and Contact Details**

Please see below for some important telephone numbers and contact details:

<b>QEH School</b>	01267 245300 Office@qehs.carms.sch.uk
<b>Delta Wellbeing (if your child has COVID symptoms)</b>	0300 333 2222
<b>To book a test call or Use the booking portal</b>	Call 119 Booking Portal: <a href="https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test">https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test</a>

#### **Other matters:**

##### **FSM**

Families in receipt of free school meals have received financial support over the half-term holiday and will continue to do so this week following half-term for pupils in Year 9 and above (as they will not be attending school). Families will have been contacted by the County regarding any changes to the details previously provided.

##### **Fire Break/Lockdown**

Full information on the fire-break can be found on the Welsh Government website at:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-firebreak-frequently-asked-questions>

**Finally**

These are challenging and unprecedented times, but I am sure that by working together as a community we will overcome these challenges. As a school I am confident that our dedicated staff will do their utmost to support our learners. I would only ask that parents and students continue to support us in our endeavours to support you.

Please keep safe.

**Kind regards,**

**Dave Williams  
Acting Headteacher**