

23rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you all well, I know that some of our families are dealing with the direct effects of COVID 19 and our thoughts and best wishes are with you.

Thank you for your forbearance with us as we try to navigate the unfamiliar waters we currently find ourselves in. We have had a lot of feedback from parents and have endeavoured to take on board all that has been said as we make improvements to the on-line work being set for our pupils. A number of you have commented that there was too much work and that pupils were not able to keep to the deadlines. I want to reassure you all that they, and you, are doing an excellent job and we really do not want any of our pupils, or parents, feeling under undue pressure during this time.

We are also very aware that when we return to school all of our pupils will have had very different experiences of home schooling and that we will therefore be modifying our schemes of work to ensure any gaps in the curriculum are minimised and that a comprehensive 'catch-up' plan is implemented.

Moving forward, to help to make things clearer and more manageable for our pupils, staff will be setting work according to the weekly timetable that is attached to this letter. We will be setting four hours' worth of work each day on four different subjects, which will be proportionate to the time spent on each of their subjects in school. Teachers will be giving clear guidance on the work to be completed each lesson with worked examples where applicable. Pupils should allow 1 hour for each subject per day and should feel no obligation to complete the tasks set beyond the hour. However, we know that some of our pupils will want to devote further time and parents should use their discretion in deciding when their children should realistically take a break.

For our Year 9 pupils, this is a temporary timetable, as we are working on your option choices at the moment. Very soon we will be writing to you with your options allocations and you will receive a new timetable to work to with preparatory work for all of your option choices.

This term I am asking all mentors to make contact with the pupils in their mentor groups so that we can check that things are going well for you all and find out if there are any other ways in which we can support you. Please continue to make email contact via the new email addresses which we have set up and if it is possible for pupils to send examples of the work they have been completing to staff, they will happily provide feedback for the pupils.

We have been very successful in implementing the government free school meals voucher scheme with most of our eligible parents taking advantage of the vouchers. If your child is entitled to free school meals but you have not registered with us for the scheme please contact admin@thewestwoodacademy.co.uk.

I would just like to finish by thanking you all for your support throughout this very unexpected time. We are all working hard behind the scenes to ensure we are still meeting the needs of our school community as best we can. I hope that we can return to some kind of normality before too long and very much look forward to seeing all of our pupils again. Stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully



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