

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents / Carer,

First, I hope that you are all well and safe. As per the government's request, JoG is open to a small number of students who are vulnerable or have parents who are key workers. Each day, a small team of teaching and non-teaching staff look after them. Their day is similar to what I would expect your children to be doing at home: a healthy mix of school work, new learning and some physical activity. At school, we are all being careful, respecting distances and making sure that we wash our hands as often as is recommended. Students and staff's safety is my absolute priority.

Some parents have contacted us to ask about students' work rate at home. Therefore, here is what we would recommend:

- Students should follow their timetable and complete work for the lessons they would have had on the day. This will ensure that they do not, for example, complete 5 hours of maths, forgetting their other subjects.
- Students should spend approximately 40 minutes on each subject; this allows for a break, between subjects and a chance to stretch their legs.
- Students should complete work set on Class Charts, over a period of time. We are very much looking for quality, rather than quantity.
- Students should review and extend their learning, by reading around the subject / topic. At this stage, without any teaching, we do not expect students to start new learning on their own, unless they feel confident to do so or are guided by a parent. Research; however, is fine, as is learning a new skill. A student emailed a teacher yesterday, to say that he had cooked something new for the first time; that was great to read!
- Students should return their work gradually (by email or post, if this is the simplest way). Please note that staff may not mark all of the work but that they will acknowledge it. We are continuing to award positive points on our system, to all the students who are working well.
- Year 11 continue to be our priority and their work will be marked first; this is because we will soon have to upload predicted grades based on all the work they have and are still completing, as students will need their GCSEs to move on to their post-16 option, from September. Year 11 have been asked to work on TEAMS, if they have computer access and return their work that way. **This is only for Year 11.**

Please note that we wanted to return all students' books by leaving them available in the foyer area, for students and parents to collect; this is obviously no longer an option, so books will be returned, when we re-open.

I have attached a list of useful websites for students and parents. They contain a wealth of information and ideas. Many online providers have made all their content free and are encouraging students to be curious and try new things. Please have a look, especially if you run out of ideas and your children are getting a little bored.

I am available to answer any questions you may have, so if you are concerned or want to share something with us, do not hesitate to email me / my colleagues via the school office.  
Please, do stay safe and I hope to see all our students again, soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C Walker', written in a cursive style.

**Mrs C Walker**  
**Head of School**