

Dear Parents/Carers

As we enter Week 2 of our enforced school closure, the novelty of not being in school can begin to wear off for everybody. It is important that we try to maintain a certain focus on learning and routine, particularly since a long forced closure appears to be the accepted course.

Overall, teachers are reporting an excellent response from students to the work that is being set. However, there have been some concerns raised by parents regarding work being set that are valid. This is not a position we thought we'd ever find ourselves in so as a school we are also learning. I would like to address some of these concerns to give some further clarity to what we expect.

- **Structure of the day**

Whilst I have advised use of your child's timetable to help you structure the day, this does not mean the expectation is that you use the normal timings. The guidance is designed to help you and your child identify the work that should be focussed on during a particular day. Regular breaks and snack times should be included and this is something you can agree with your child but please do not think we expect your child to work from 8.55am to 3.30pm.

Work time

Working on your own is tough both in terms of the motivation and concentration required. I would suggest that you do not expect your child to work for longer than 45 minutes in one go. It is important that they are able to take a break. If I were to set a minimum time, I would suggest 30 minutes before allowing a break.

- **The amount of work to complete**

Completing work is still important as we still do not know the full details of how the government intend to award grades in the summer. Revision tasks building to past paper completion are important and might be used as evidence for a final teacher prediction if asked for. To break up the monotony, students can also read course-specific college, A-level or degree-level materials to help prepare them for September.

- **Celebrity watch and online support**

There are some wonderful initiatives that have emerged from this crisis, including Maths with Carol Vorderman, History with Dan Snow and Geography with Chris Packham. Joe Wick's PE lesson every morning at 9am should be the start of everyone's day! However, these can often add to the feeling of overload. My advice would be for your child to focus on the work their teacher has set and use these online celebrity sessions as an opportunity to just sit and watch, giving them, and you, a well-earned rest.

The key message is we are not expecting you to replicate school. That is impossible. We recognise the stresses and strains of the current situation and we want to support you and your child through this uncertain period. We will evolve in our support too as we learn more about how the government intends to award grades this year and I ask you to work with us as we do. Your views and experiences are very important to us and we want to work with you to support your child during these unprecedented times.

Mr B Williams
Assistant Headteacher

THE BLANDFORD SCHOOL

Your child can access support online through Live Chat - where they can message a Careers Adviser online, available Monday-Fridays from 9am-4pm. We have extended these hours for the next two months so we can offer more support for students. This is a normally a paid for service which we are offering for free so that we are able to provide support for students over the next two months until the end of May (in the first instance).

Please log in via:

www.ansbury.co.uk/Login.html

Log in – dorset99

Password – dorset99