

The Dorcan Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for all your support and feedback on the Remote Learning which we are delivering. I know that motivating teenagers to work independently is not easy and some of you are trying to support your children whilst holding down full-time jobs or working from home and trying to share digital devices around the family. Please be assured that you are doing a brilliant job in a very challenging situation. Initially there were some parents saying that there was not enough work being set, and others saying there was too much. Thank you for bearing with us as it is difficult to get the balance right to support everyone and everyone is in their own unique situation. Some students have access to their own digital device, some don't have any, others are having to share, and some students have parents at home supporting them with their work whilst others don't.

If your child is completing the work quickly and in need of more, please do contact the class teacher who will ensure that further challenging work is set as well as the additional optional tasks already included in the daily workload. Equally, the last thing we would want to do is put you under more pressure than you already are, so if your child is struggling to complete the work or needs your support and you are unable to give it, then all we expect is that you just do what you can when you can – we do understand, and if you let us know, then we can try to support as much as possible. The most important thing is that you all stay sane and safe.

Due to the high numbers of students in school needing to be taught, we are limited in our ability to provide 'live' lessons to all year groups with their class teacher. We made the decision to prioritise the delivery of live lessons to students in Key Stage 4 this half term, expecting the lockdown to end by February half term. To support students in Years 7 – 9 we have introduced 'clinics' for each subject to allow students to speak to a subject specialist and receive additional support to complete the work which has been set, if they wish to do so. Should the lockdown continue after half term, it is our intention to provide some live teaching to all year groups which may mean that not all lessons in Year 10 will be able to remain live. Due to the nature of remote learning, feedback to students has significantly increased the workload for staff, all of whom vary in their home situation and the new demands on them in the current restrictions. We have applied for and are still awaiting further laptops from the government to enable all students to access online learning.

Our remote learning plan for up to half term is on the academy website for you to view. As soon as the government inform us of the plans for after half-term, we will let you know. A link can be found here: <http://www.dorcan.co.uk/media/policies/Remote%20Education%20Plan%202021.pdf>

The theme for assembly next week, which I am leading is 'Being Thankful' and I would like to take this opportunity to thank every parent who has sent us a message of encouragement or gratitude over the past few weeks and is supporting us in the best way they can. It really does make a world of difference.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Bareham'.

Mrs Bareham
Headteacher