

25 March 2020

Good afternoon everyone

I hope you are all okay and feel ready for the next few weeks. I know that it seems a little odd today as we head into our period of isolation, but I hope our young people are managing the transition well.

We've been monitoring what's been happening online, and I've been delighted by the way our staff and students have been working together. Loads of great stuff going on. And if you haven't yet checked out Mr Taylor's Youtube channel for Primary PE (the first video is here: <https://youtu.be/aE77g5Av7Kg>), have a look and get active with him! Students are already taking out e-books as well, and I'm very impressed by the way Teams meetings and lessons are being recorded and made available.

I also know that our IT team is busy responding to queries and sorting out problems as they arise. This is what we expected to happen, so please bear with us: we'll get 99% of technical issues sorted out in the next couple of days, and will come up with workarounds for those we can't fix.

We are all, of course, here to support you, so please keep asking questions. I am very proud of the way our teachers are working - innovating, experimenting and connecting with students - but there will still be things we can develop and change. So with that in mind:

1. Please let me know if there are things we should have in our 'Guide to Students and Parents' that would be helpful. Nicki Williams, our Communications Co-ordinator, and I are keen to update this document as often as we can.
2. Please remember to use the Pinehurst Dashboard on the top of our website as a quick way to access our network of ICT resources.
3. Let me know if you have any feedback or advice. Please also talk to and write to teachers - positive feedback is always very welcome, as are any ideas for things that we can do differently. Not everything will be possible, but we'll keep experimenting.
4. If your child is starting to get tired after a few lessons - working at home is more difficult and often harder than at school - don't worry if he or she needs a break. We will keep providing the lessons, but remember that all the work is still available, and most lessons on Teams are being recorded. Teachers are working out the best way to do things, and we expect students and families will also need to work this out. Some children need and prefer structure and routine. Others need more flexibility.

A final thing for today's email: the school site will be completely closed from 3 pm today, and our playgrounds are already closed for everyone. This is a Government instruction, so please do not attempt to use our playgrounds during either a Level 3 or a Level 4 alert.

I'll write again tomorrow. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to hearing from you all.

Take care and kind regards
Alex

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