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Dear parent / carer,

Well here we are at the end of the strangest term we've ever experienced! I want to start out by thanking you for your support and understanding over the past couple of weeks as we have worked hard to rapidly adapt to a whole new way of working, running a virtual school as well as an emergency childcare provision. I have received various messages of appreciation from you and that has meant a lot.

This has been a learning experience for all of us and I'm certain that there will still be some challenges ahead. I am aware that technology and IT access have been an issue for some of you, especially at such short notice; hopefully you are now managing to access the online learning. As a staff we are now reviewing how our online provision works. We will continue to do this and please reassure your children that they can only do their best and not become anxious if they are falling behind. They should be doing no more than 5 hours study per school day and should hopefully also have the opportunity to access the growing amount of online and media content available such as BBC Bitesize. On the other end of the scale, please also ensure that your children are actually engaging fully with the online provision as staff are working hard to ensure that their education can be maintained in these exceptional circumstances. This is something we will not be able to address without parental support and I am sure that some pupils will understandably be struggling with the self-discipline required to work virtually.

There is still a significant amount of uncertainty moving forward. We are awaiting clarification on GCSE grading and still have no idea as to when we will be able to return to 'normal' as a school. We are attempting to keep things going as best we can and so Year 7 transition arrangements are underway and we are going to try to complete Year 9 options ready for a new timetable to start on 1st June; that is the plan at the moment anyway! Once again, please don't let your children worry overly about this; we are working hard behind the scenes and will let the pupils know if they need to do anything.

As we start the Easter break, we have an ideal opportunity for everybody to recharge and take a well-deserved break; online provision will cease for this 2 weeks and start again on Monday 20th April. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams