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Dear parent / carer,

I wanted to write to you again to update you on the evolving situation and so you are aware of how we are responding. I would like to thank you once again for your ongoing support in these trying and exceptional times as well as to express my gratitude to our staff who have maintained online learning for your children throughout as well as on-site provision for key workers since the lockdown began including through school holidays. This will continue until the end of the academic year.

As you are now no doubt aware, the school will not open again fully during this academic year – current indications are that we should prepare to open in September and so we are planning on that basis. For most pupils, this will mean that they will have missed 14 school weeks this year; this clearly emphasises the importance of the children's full engagement with their online learning so that they can be in as strong a position as possible on their reintegration to school. Your support with this has been and continues to be absolutely crucial.

We have also been working on the new timetable which will start, as usual, straight after half-term. Pupils will receive their new timetables shortly; for our new Year 10 pupils, this will include their new option subjects which they will be starting fresh as online courses in the first instance. There will be no online learning provision during the half-term break and it will start again on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Our current Year 10 pupils will also become our new Year 11 cohort after half-term. In line with the government's directions, we are looking at how we can ensure that they have some face to face support to supplement their online learning before the summer break. This is an incredibly testing time for this cohort and it is crucial that they are using their time effectively to continue working through the various exam courses in readiness for their mocks and final GCSE examinations. My feeling is that the whole country and every school is in the same situation and so they should try not to become too anxious whilst focussing diligently on the learning provided by their teachers – every bit of learning will be vital for them and teachers are focussing on what is necessary. I will offer more detail about how we will address the face to face support as I receive more guidance but this will give us an opportunity to review their progress throughout the period of the lockdown and focus on how they can prepare for their GCSE year. My priority will be the safety of both the staff and the pupils; I want to be sure that all safety measures are employed before I ask any significant numbers of either to return. The government guidance is also on our school website for your information.

Finally I would once again like to thank you for your positive messages of support throughout this period. We are working hard to ensure that the school can continue to operate, albeit in a very different way and, although some issues were inevitable, we have endeavoured to give you and your children the best provision possible within the current restrictions. It has been a learning experience for us all!!!

Take care and stay safe everybody,

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams