

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020.



# Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Can I start off by thanking you for your support and messages of encouragement over the last few days, we're really pleased that we've been able to continue to offer an educational provision to all of our pupils on a lesson by lesson basis through Teams. Staff have been working hard to adapt to new way of teaching but have continued to ensure that lessons delivered follow the curriculum and, crucially, have been able to maintain interactivity with pupils through the Teams platform to offer advice and guidance on the tasks and activities set. I'd like to thank staff for their efforts and continued dedication to our pupils, despite the unprecedented and difficult circumstances for everyone at this time.

We have all become proficient at communicating in different ways and I'm so proud to see that staff continue to conduct meetings remotely as departments or working groups to consider way of further improving the remote provision beyond Easter. Work is going on behind the scenes map out curriculums in a way that best suits remote learning so that we continue to drive a curriculum for pupils; this means that the work they are doing is not only relevant, but well structured and allows them to continue to make progress.

Parents will be familiar with the curriculum bulletins we circulate each term detailing what pupils will be covering in each of their subjects in the weeks ahead. We will be issuing a version of these to parents next half-term in relation to the remote curriculum we will be following in each of the subject areas. This will give you insight in to what we are doing to continue to drive progress whilst pupils are not physically accessing school. To support pupils' sense that they are working towards something, departments are currently developing assignments reflecting the content we will be delivering through Teams. These will be issued to pupils at fixed points, allowing them to demonstrate their understanding of the work completed remotely. We will be releasing more information relating to this following Easter.

So it is essential that pupils continue to access their resources remotely, logging in to interact with staff during their normal lesson times where this is feasible for them to do so. It's also important that pupils complete resources to maintain their development. We are striving to ensure that pupils are well placed when they return to school, from is likely to be a lengthy period, so that we can try and mitigate any impact on their long term education; and maintain a sense of structure and daily routine.

If pupils can't access the remote learning resources, or their Office 365 account, for any reason it's essential that you contact us so that we can come up with a solution to these issues in conjunction with you.

We have now published the Easter holiday independent resources on the school website for pupils to access. These three documents list projects and activities that pupils can work on independently during the holiday period and are drawn from a variety of subject areas across the school. The main document is a booklet that includes activities for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils by subject. We have also issued the collated resources issued by SPARK covering a range of technology/digital based activities for pupils to access online and finally there is an extended science project for Key Stage 4 pupils.

We recognise that we have reached the end of what has been a very difficult half-term for everyone and understand that pupils will likely need some time to relax and recharge. We also recognise, however,

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Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH





that as we're being asked to socially distance pupils will not be able to undertake "usual" holiday activities; and so we wanted to issue a bank of resources that pupils could work through to provide them with some stimulation and the opportunity to engage in tasks that still promote learning. Hopefully this will also support our families, helping to navigate a lengthy period at home. Of course, normal interactive curriculum lessons will resume from the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, through Teams.

School remains open across the Easter holiday period, including Good Friday and Easter Monday, to support our most vulnerable pupils and also children of key workers who are undertaking vital work in our local community. We have contacted parents directly to discuss accessing this provision where pupils meet the criteria for these groups. Pupils present in school will be able to work through the independent project material.

The government have released further information relating to the awarding of grades for Year 11 pupils today and we have issued a letter to parents and pupils with further details, this can be found on the school website.

The last month has been a very difficult time for us all but I'm proud of our school and community for the way in which we've supported each other and adapted to be able to offer our young people the best possible provision in very difficult circumstances. I'm mindful that our young people might have found the last few weeks exceptionally challenging and therefore we want to share resources that they can access in the coming weeks to support their emotional wellbeing. Kooth, the UK's largest Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing platform, are conducting a live online session for our pupils on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of April at 11am. Details on how to join the session are available on the school website.

In addition to this, we also want to ensure that pupils are staying safe online whilst at home and information and guidance relating to this for parents and carers can be found at;  
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>.

I hope that you manage to enjoy some time as a family across the next two weeks, despite the challenging circumstances in which we find ourselves. I'd like to wish you and your families all the very best across the break and hope that everyone is in good health upon our return.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin  
Principal.

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