

Dear Parent / Carer

As we reach the end of the first week of a very different way of schooling I thought you may welcome this update.

Our first priority this week has been to keep students and staff safe. We continue to offer support to the children of critical workers and vulnerable students although I am pleased to confirm that parents are heeding the Government's advice and only sending their children to school when it is absolutely necessary. Both Kesteven and Sleaford High School and Carre's Grammar School are taking a hub approach to this supervision. This week the support has been based at Carre's; next week we expect a small number of girls and boys at the High School. Please do let KSHS know via enquiries@kshs.uk if they should expect your son next week.

During the Easter Holidays supervision will only be available via the Community Sport Team based at Carre's. A reminder that if you wish your child to have a place on this you must contact Megan Hardwick or Matt Evans for more information: Megan.hardwick@carres.uk or Matthew.evans@carres.uk. There is no charge for this but we do need to plan for numbers. This is only open to the children of critical workers or vulnerable students.

At home our fantastic students certainly seem to have risen the challenges of learning remotely with ingenuity and flexibility. We are hearing from them about their daily schedules, their ways of looking after mind and body, their collaboration and support for each other. We hope in turn we have answered their queries and put their minds at rest where needed.

All tutors have been tasked with touching base with their tutees at least once a week. This is simply to ensure that no students feel they are on their own with their studies and that any wider concerns can be addressed. Heads of Year and support staff have an agreed schedule for regular 1:1 communication with our more vulnerable students. This enables us to support the children and families for whom lockdown arrangements place even greater challenges. Our practical arrangements for our Free School Meals students is up and running too. Contact details for any of these services are included at the bottom of this letter; please do get in touch if you have any queries.

Many of the questions asked of us have been from Year 11 or 13 students eager to hear about how their GCSEs and A levels/BTECs will be accredited. Letters have been sent to parents (we have also uploaded copies to our website). We are now awaiting detail from the exam boards on procedures we have to follow. Rest assured that our assessment processes and regular monitoring of students' progress will make it relatively straightforward for us to work with the exam boards to provide the most accurate and fair judgements of what students would have been likely to achieve in the summer. We have been asking Year 11 and 13 students to carry on with their studies and complete their courses where possible, simply so we can protect their interests in the event of appeals against grades awarded or to help them to prepare best for Sixth Form studies. We expect to have some more detail next

week but please be patient with us. We will communicate with both parents and students as soon as we can reliably inform you about the next steps.

All students have been set enough work via our P:Drive to be getting on with until the Easter break and even though those weeks may look very different to what you may have planned as a family we do encourage all our young people to take a break from their timetabled studies and enjoy other activities. Teachers are currently working hard to plan purposeful post-Easter online work and we will update all students before, or right at the start of, term 5 with clear expectations of what they should be doing.

The internet has been full of tips for hard working parents who have suddenly found themselves having to be teachers too! Today we have uploaded today some helpful factsheets which hopefully offer you some reassurance and advice about what you can be doing as a parent to support your child. You can access these via the parents' link on the school website closure banner. You will also find a school transport update there which will be relevant to you if you are a critical worker and need to get your child to school for supervision during the school closure.

In the meantime please see the links below if you have any queries. Thank you for your continued support and kind messages; they continue to be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully
N M Law
Headteacher

- For all learning or student support related enquiries please contact enquiries@carres.uk This inbox is monitored throughout the school day and your email will be directed to the relevant member of staff
- For any queries related to Free School Meals or finance related questions such as refunds for cancelled school events please contact finance@robertcarretrust.uk
- Queries about the administration of examinations (e.g. statements of entry for Year 11 or 13) can be addressed to our examinations officer tracey.williams@carres.uk
- Details regarding the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on summer exams can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>
- If you want advice about keeping your child safe online we recommend these unlimited free online safety guides www.nationalonlinesafety.com/guides or the attached factsheet