

4th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst your daughters have been using this week to read and review their work, the staff have been working on planning, organising and training. As the country is tentatively emerging from quarantine, the school needs to prepare for the delivery of the curriculum in both the next few weeks but also the next year; therefore I will now make a number of announcements that will impact upon your daughter's learning.

Remote Learning

Ongoing reviews of the work that your daughters have been completing while they are home has shown that they have been learning incredibly well. A survey taken by the girls indicated that many are valuing the skills of independent learning that have developed while at home and on the whole the experience has been positive. However, we have also been able to identify a small number of girls who have struggled to engage or complete the work set and subsequently areas in which we can refine and improve our practice.

Due to the possibility of localised lockdowns and individuals or groups of pupils and staff being required to self-isolate for 14 days, the school will need to provide for either full time or partial remote learning of some kind, for the next 18 months. Therefore we are going to focus upon improving and widening the use of **Microsoft Teams** to deliver the curriculum. Both teachers and pupils will receive training on how to use this more effectively.

Access to technology has been the principle barrier for a number of pupils and staff and the school is identifying ways we can reassign our limited budget to improve the speed of connection and access whilst on site.

Reports

Every pupil will receive an end of year report during this term. The grades will relate to her progress and work ethic up to the 20th March and there will also be a separate indicator of how well she has completed work since the school closed.

Trips

Until the need to socially distance comes to an end, we will not be offering any school trips, either residential or during the school day. This is incredibly sad because trips are such an important part of the WGGs experience but the logistical planning required would be extremely complex and I cannot take the financial risk of cancellation for either you or the school.

Arrangements for Year 10 and 12 from the 15th June

We have studied the outcome of surveys from parents, pupils and staff as well as governmental guidance and developed an offer based upon what are a huge number of restrictions. We will therefore be offering each girl in Year 10 and 12 the opportunity to come onto site for one day per week between the 15th June and 10th July. Year 12 students will focus on one subject for the day and Year 10 pupils, two subjects. There will be stringent measures put in place to ensure social distancing and all Year 10 and 12 parents and pupils will receive detailed guides on Monday 8th June.

All girls in Year 10 and 12 will continue to work remotely when not in school and the teacher led sessions in school will complement, not replace the work set by teachers that week.

Last week of Term

Following the success of virtual Founders' Day we have decided not to have any provision on site for the last week of term (except for key worker children and vulnerable pupils) so we can hold a number of whole school events, which will include Sports Day and Prize Giving. I am pleased to say that the school raised £465 on Founders' Day and this will be distributed to three local charities.

Message from Beat Uniforms

Please find in this week's mail our Summer Leaflet. We are hoping to re-open our stores on the 1st of June (subject to Government approval) and are then going to implement an appointment system to ensure that we adhere to social distancing measures – we do actually already have lots of you booked in. We are urging everyone not to leave it to the last minute and to get it sorted nice and early so we can try and get through you all.

Online/Phone ordering will be operated as normal by using our own delivery drivers and we have lowered the cost of delivery, making deliveries free of charge for orders over £20. Any items that are tried on and returned to us for sizing or exchanging will be steamed and disinfected.

Message from Three Rivers Council

Three Rivers District Council has partnered up with Watford and Three Rivers Trust to provide support to residents through this pandemic; Watford Borough has done the same for their residents.

Support is available to people through Watford and Three Rivers Trust for the following:

- Weekly friendly chat phone calls
- Support with accessing food – either through emergency food packs, personal shops or accessing deliveries from local suppliers
- Prescription collection
- Signposting to additional support, i.e. mental health, Citizens Advice Service
- Safeguarding referrals if required

Staff carry out the initial contact to identify what support the family needs and the subsequent support, if appropriate, is then provided by volunteers working for the charity.

Referrals can be made online through https://bit.ly/TRDC_Support (click on continue without an account).

W3RT can also signpost people to one of the local Covid support groups working within the District. We are in the process of developing a webpage on threerivers.gov.uk that informs people of the various mutual aid/support groups and how to contact them. Please keep an eye on our website for this information and it should be up by the end of next week.

Additional information for people self-isolating is available on <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/self-isolating>

We have also developed webpages on support for families and children, and support for young people.

<https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/support-available-for-children-and-families>

<https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/support-available-for-young-people/>

Best wishes to you and all your families,

Sylvia Tai