

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have delayed sending out the newsletter this week so that I could include as much information as I can about arrangements that will affect you daughter in the first few weeks after half term. You will probably have been as frustrated as we have been about the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic. School life is centred on routine, with set timetables telling us where to be and when for every day of the school year, with school calendars that map out the year(s) ahead and the transitions from primary to secondary, GCSE to A levels and then leaving school, shaping our lives from Year 1 to 13. Now that has been taken away from us and we must plan for a future that is uncertain.

Since the Prime Minister's announcement that secondary schools will be asked to offer face to face support for Year 10 and 12 pupils to supplement remote teaching, the Senior Leadership Team has been putting in place the structures that are appropriate for the wellbeing of our students. The provision for teaching and learning for the rest of the academic term will be based upon the following principles:

- No compromise to the ability of each pupil and staff member to remain socially distant.
- No requirement that pupils or staff come onto the site if they are in a vulnerable category or if a member of their family is being shielded.

A government briefing has been scheduled for Thursday May 28th and if there are significant changes to the provision we are required to offer, we will be using the following week to plan in more detail and then let you know how these will be implemented. Until further notice, the school will remain closed to all pupils, except the children of key workers and the most vulnerable members of our community. When the government informs us that the school should reopen, I will be giving you at least a week's notice before your daughter is expected to return.

### **Reading, Review and Revise Week**

For the whole of the week beginning Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>, the work set will direct pupils to carry out extended **reading** and **review** the work that they have completed so far. Direct contact from subject teachers will resume the following week.

We have emailed every girl a link to an online questionnaire, which will enable her to let us know how she is doing - whether she needs additional support and if she would like to be contacted directly by a member of staff regarding her response.

### **Risk Assessment**

The staff have been completing a detailed risk assessment to identify how adjustments to the timetable, school procedures and the way in which the site is managed can mitigate the risk caused by the coronavirus. We will publish this risk assessment after June 1<sup>st</sup> and this will be updated as the situation changes.

### **Surveys**

We will gather relevant information from all staff and parents, which will enable us to assess the level of provision that is both desirable and achievable.

Based on the outcome of each of these measures, I will then publish how the provision by WGGs will be adapted for the rest of the term.

### Departing Staff

We are very sorry to say a fond farewell to Miss Berkin in the Modern Foreign Languages Department. She has been teaching in WGGs since 2017 and has a superb reputation as a teacher and dedicated form tutor. The fact that she is one of our old girls is a particular source of pride. She is leaving to become the Head of French at Haberdasher's Aske's School for Girls in Elstree and we wish her well.

### Some Good News

Our pupils continue to impress us with their work for others; for example, Miss Cass has told us about Amara I in 11F. She has been making headbands for the NHS, with buttons to which their masks can be attached, all of which have been sent to



Watford General and we are so proud of this superb contribution to the fight against Covid 19. If you would like to find a way of supporting the local community, you may wish to have a look at the pamphlet attached to today's newsletter.

# WGGs Remote Learning Periodic Table

This Periodic Table has been created by the Watford Grammar School for Girls students and staff who were challenged to design a chemical element symbol from their homes during the period of school closure.

In other news, the Chemistry Department has challenged the girls to recreate the Periodic Table by creating images for each new element and I am delighted to share this with you here.

In spite of everything, the weather is beautiful and I wish you all a happy and relaxing bank holiday weekend.

Best wishes,

Miss Tai