

Aspiration
Respect
Endeavour

Alderton Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 3JA
t: 020 8508 1173 e: office@rodingvalley.net
www.rodingvalley.net
Headteacher: Mrs S Jenner
Chief Executive Officer: Mr P Banks



Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

2nd April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, and most importantly, I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy. I send my very best regards to all those in our community who are unwell or self-isolating. This is a very difficult and unsettling time for everyone and I am grateful for all the support being offered from within the school community. Thank you for supporting the governments #stay at home # save lives

It is unprecedented that schools would be closed, especially with no fixed date for when they will reopen. However, we will continue to follow the advice of the government and Public Health England as our families' health is the most important consideration at this time. We must prepare that this is now moving into the longer term period. The emergency school provision remains in place for children of our key workers who really have no safe alternative and I am grateful for the teachers who are supporting this. We have donated all the school's personal protective equipment to the NHS. If your child was eligible for Free School meals (FSM) then you should already have received a link to Sainsbury's vouchers for this initial 4 week period. The government has just announced its voucher scheme which will give you more access to other shopping outlets. You should expect the school to be in contact within the next 2 weeks.

We still wait for specific clarification around the grading for our Year 11s and Year 13s but Ofqual and the government are clear that no child will be disadvantaged. Specific guidance is expected for schools within the next week. We will share with parents and students as soon as we know anything. Our plan is that we will make 6th Form place offers when we have agreed the grades that are being awarded to each student. I know many students are anxious but please do try and remember that this affects every 16 and 18 year old across the nation and potentially the world. They cannot let this negatively affect a whole generation. As a school, we will do our very best to ensure that the students are awarded what they deserve and provide them with the stepping stone to the next stage in their education / career. My staff are as disappointed as the students at this abrupt end to their studies given all the hard work and effort put in to reach that point. We still also wait to hear from UCAS and the universities and again, we will share any information as soon as we have it.

School, in whatever form will continue and I am delighted that my staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that there is work being set and communicated on a weekly basis. I am also grateful for the parental commitment from home. However, I totally recognise that this is not without its issues and I think that we all need to catch our breath as we come into the Easter school holidays. I believe that this is a time for families, teachers and students to



regroup and refresh and my teachers will not be setting 'lessons' during this period. I would suggest that we all try and take some positives from the situation, enjoy family time, encourage students to take up a hobby, focus on their physical fitness or enjoy reading a book.

As I look longer term, I believe that we want our students to be prepared to return to full time school healthy, both physically and mentally, capable of independent study, having learnt some new skills and having been inspired to learn something that will support their future study and life.

School leaders recognise that we cannot deliver the national curriculum in full, to every student, at their differentiated level by remote learning in the long term. We are now in the process of putting together a plan of how school can operate in the long term from home to begin after Easter. This will involve us helping to support you more with guided learning hours, targeted at different age groups. Providing a suggested structure that can be followed, providing opportunity for our curriculum leads to work collaboratively to try and iron out some of the issues that students are facing. I also want to manage your expectations, a year 7 and 8 student does not need to be completing 5 hours of school work a day. This is not sustainable especially in isolation. We will be providing more information and support on Year 9 options and will set transition work for Year 11s as they consider their post 16 study. We will focus on the Year 10s to ensure that they continue to access key parts of the GCSE curriculum. Year 12s will need to continue with their A level curriculum. We will aim to provide more guidance and tips on mental wellbeing, taking part in physical activity and how to access platforms that support 'new' learning. It is important that we support learning without misconceptions and we will explore ways to do this with you. This will not necessarily involve streaming lessons which is very problematic, not accessible to all and raises many safeguarding issues. We will issue a step by step guide on the use of google classroom and will be developing some interesting project based work which inspires creativity.

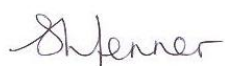
These are unprecedented times and we are all finding our way to ensure that our students can continue to access the best learning resources.

I will reiterate that I believe in these anxious times, we want our students to be prepared to return to full time school healthy, both physically and mentally, capable of independent study, having learnt some new skills and having been inspired to learn something that will support their future study and life. When we return to school, I can assure you that we will endeavour to ensure that they all pick up from where they were; we just need in this period to retain a good routine, interest in learning but more importantly positive mental and physical health.



Please enjoy the parent bulletin (on Friday 3rd April 2020) which celebrates some of the great work being completed at home.

With the kindest regards,



Sharon Jenner
Headteacher

