

gilesacademy

10th April 2020

Dear Staff; Students and Parents / Carers,

As we are now at the end of Week 3 of the school closure I just wanted to write and thank you all for your messages of thanks and goodwill, all of which have been passed on.

You will already be aware of the importance that our school places on the wellbeing and health agenda and it is important that I take this time to share with you the importance of maintaining positive emotional and mental health at the current time. Therefore, to support all our families and staff, we have made sure that we have updated our school website, where you will be able to find the details for a number of agencies and help organisations. These are the details of some of the vital services being offered at the moment.

Additionally, please be reassured that our pastoral system is still very much in operation, with the Heads of Year and the leadership team all working hard to maintain communication with our families where and when this is needed. I will also take this time to further reassure all staff and parents / carers that there will be a member of the leadership team in school every week day until we return, to maintain communication with our families and they will pass all / any messages on to the relevant staff member.

We very much look forward to the time that we can write to you with a plan for our school re-opening but unfortunately have no indication of this at the moment. For myself, like many of the school leadership team, this period of isolation has been made slightly easier by still being in the routine of needing to attend school regularly for most days. However, many other staff have communicated to me that they are certainly missing being in school and working with our amazing young people, this includes Dr Chrysostomou who is very much looking forward to the time that he can welcome the students back on the front gates and he wanted to pass on the below message to all our learners and families:

Good morning all,

As you will be aware we are just coming up to the end of the 3 week point, and I just wanted to email all of you to thank you for the fantastic efforts you are doing with your schoolwork. I also wanted to take this opportunity to also thank you the parents/carers for the amazing support you are giving, not only your children, but also the school in supporting us with the work.

I am aware that the Heads of Year have been in contact with students as needed in their year groups, communicating messages to the group, including individual phone calls and emails, as and when necessary. Likewise, I have been in contact with individual families to offer support or advice through phone calls and emails.

On the whole the amount of students that have logged on to Show My Homework or other sites is amazing. For those of you not logged on yet, or maybe are a little behind on work, including your BTEC's, now over this holiday period would be the ideal time to do a little catch up. None of us know how long we are going to be in this situation, it will benefit you all to have a routine of doing some schoolwork, for when you return.

Remember though it is about balance for you students, hopefully like me you have learnt how to do a few new things, like cooking, morning fitness and home schooling my own children. Also going for long walks with my family has helped, getting out of the house, some fresh air and just keeping active - obviously whilst respecting the rules of social distancing and isolation!

Please do not hesitate to contact teachers on SMH if you have any questions on your lesson, they will respond. Do not hesitate to contact the Head of Year or your teacher, if you have any questions or would like some advice, one of us will always get back to you.

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Finally, I can only emphasise the importance of getting into a routine, between life at home and schoolwork, it will help you through these difficult, and at times stressful moments. Staying in touch with friends on Social Media in a positive way (everyone likes a FaceTime or a positive message), will also help, though remember to stay safe.

I hope you all keep safe and well, look after each other and I look forward to seeing you all on your return.

Kind regards

Dr Chrysostomou

Assistant Headteacher Giles Academy

Finally, I would just like to thank all staff; parents / carers and students again for your ongoing support and for the great job you are doing!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Belcher', written in a cursive style.

Katie Belcher

Deputy Headteacher