

15th May 2020

Dear Year 7, 8 & 9 students,

I hope you are well and that you and your families are keeping safe?

I wanted to write to let you know that we are thinking about you all every day. The leadership team are in school for a number of days and it is a very, very quiet place without you, our great students bustling around the place.

As you will have heard by now, following the Government update on Sunday 10 May and the announcement of the proposed lockdown exit strategy, the 'road map' for this process looks as if it may be longer than some of you would want, and it is now clear that you will not be returning to school as 'normal' this academic year.

I feel very sad for you that this is the case and although, due to this challenging situation we continue to find ourselves in, you will not be leaving the school in the 'normal' way, please remember that you will always have the schools ongoing support. You may want to email us with any successes you want to share or any concerns you have. Whether you need someone to talk to, help with your work or for any other question, you can email your Head of Year or one of the leadership team at any time and whatever you need we will respond promptly.

As you will now be continuing to work from home during Term 6, it is important to keep motivated with your work. However, we also need to remember that Term 6 also was a 'fun' term when you got to take part in Sports Days and an array of other activities, so to support you in your learning over the next seven weeks, we will be reorganising slightly the way in which your work is set so that there is more variety in the tasks given by your teachers and so that the workload is more manageable for you.

In Term 6, for Years 7 and 8 there will be continued focus on the core subjects: English; Maths and Science, and the Ebacc subjects: Geography; History and MFL.

For your other subjects, known as the foundation subjects – such as Art; Food; etc, there will still be projects and lessons for you to complete, but these can be worked on over a longer period of time and at your own pace.

Additionally, for Year 8, we aim to issue your Options as soon as possible in Term 6 and you will be able to stop work for the subjects that you will not be continuing with, in order to spend longer periods of time on the projects and lessons where you need to put more focus.

Please don't worry about this change ... you can be reassured that you will most certainly have enough work to do! 😊

For Year 9, core subjects in addition to option subjects will still be priority as you have started your Key Stage 4 curriculum, however in some areas you may see some mini project activities featured. Again, if you do have any worries or concerns about any of the work please contact your subject teacher or tutor on Show My Homework or email.

As well as your learning, we see that Term 6 is an important time for you to continue to exercise, keep in contact with your friends and explore new hobbies. As you see the plans for your Term 6 learning start to be implemented, I hope that you will see that we want you to be successful, but also to enjoy your learning using a wider variety of activities.

Finally, we would like to say to you all, that for Giles Academy you continue to be amazing young people to work with. All the staff feel extremely privileged to be able to work with you all. As I have already said to the Year 10 & 12, (who will be returning to school in a reduced way), you are showing dedication and commitment to your studies, as well as an extremely mature attitude in the manner in which you have dealt with this situation ... we feel so very proud of you all!

Stay safe ... stay positive ... keep in touch!

Thinking of you all – with my best wishes,

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

Miss Katie Belcher
Deputy Headteacher