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Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, BEd, NPQH
Head of School: Mr N Lindsay, BA (Hons), NPQH

20th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Coronavirus Update - 20th April 2020 (0150-19NLI)

We hope you have had a safe and restful Easter. As I am sure you will have seen, the Government have confirmed that we are in lockdown for another three weeks and as a result, we still have no official indication of when schools will open again, but continue to work 'behind the scenes' to ensure that Longfield will be ready to meet the needs of the community as soon as we fully re-open.

A reminder that it is now the Summer Term and teachers will once again be contacting pupils via Microsoft Teams to set and feedback on work.

Please encourage your child to access their work on Teams. If your child is struggling to access Microsoft Teams, please ring the school and politely request for a work pack to be sent out to your home address. We have witnessed excellent efforts from the pupils working from home before Easter and we want this to continue.

Please also see the below link if you require additional resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

Years 7, 8 & 9 Reading at home

As you are aware, it is vital that pupils read for 20 minutes per day to extend their vocabulary. Accelerated Reader is accessible through the school website. Your child's reading target can be found here once you log in and look under 'progress'. If you require the username and password to be sent again, please email Mrs Martin kmartin@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

To access free e-books you can visit <https://readon.myon.co.uk/> This site is provided by Accelerated Reader and they have kindly offered free access to the books to enable children to read at home.



Years 7, 8 & 9 Literacy at home

All pupils are expected to complete two Bedrock lessons each week. Bedrock is accessed through the website <https://app.bedrocklearning.org/>. If your child has forgotten their login, they can contact their English teacher via Teams or school email. All pupils should complete ten Bedrock lessons this term. A weekly league will be published on Teams for all pupils to view and review their progress. We also have three Literacy competitions for pupils to enter this term:

1. The 100-word Spine Chiller competition
2. A poetry competition
3. A short story competition

Pupils can access linked information for all competitions, including entry dates, on their English Teams. If you have any queries about the competitions, please email Mrs Martin kmartin@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

Pupils moving from Year 9 into Year 10 Options

Parents / Carers of Year 9 pupils will have received their child's option confirmations last half term for subjects continuing into Year 10. Pupils have now been placed into classes for their chosen subjects on Microsoft Teams. We have done this to ensure that the pupils are as "KS4 ready" as we can possibly make them during this unprecedented time. Pupils will now have Key Stage 4 work set for them to complete within their chosen subjects and it is essential that pupils complete this work to the best standard possible to avoid falling behind. English, Maths, Science, PSHCE and PE will remain unchanged on TEAMS and pupils should continue to complete work in these subjects. Pupils no longer need to complete work in the subjects they have not opted for.

Tips for working at home

Please encourage your child to do the below whilst working at home:

- set daily goals
- work towards completing a subject at a time
- follow their school timetable as much as possible
- get the whole family involved in the learning
- keep in touch with peers and share knowledge
- for every 50 to 60 minutes of study time, plan a 10 to 15-minute break
- when taking a break, get a healthy snack for an energy boost
- retrieve knowledge that they have learnt to the family to strengthen their memory
- a minimum of 20 minutes a day of any physical activity can create a positive mental attitude

We suggest getting the pupils involved in life skills during this time, cook together, show them the ropes with the washing machine and how to budget financially.

Parents / Carers of Pupils with SEND

Please access the link below for Department for Education advice for parents and carers looking after children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Free School Meals Update

As you can imagine, the Governments system for ordering Free School Meals vouchers has been inundated and as a result there have been delays nationally and locally. We thank you for your patience with this and we assure you we are doing everything we can to ensure these vouchers are provided as quickly as possible to families who are eligible. Eligible families have been contacted regularly and we are now fully up to date in terms of Edenred fulfilling orders.

Year 11 GCSEs and Vocational Qualifications

We understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for Year 11 in particular. Since the announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, we are aware that you are urgently waiting for news. Our aim is to ensure the process is fair to pupils this summer so that no one is disadvantaged in their progress to sixth form, apprenticeships, training or work.

Please see the following information from Ofqual regarding how grades will be calculated;

“Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned*
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade.*

This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges. Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course. This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board”

Unfortunately, we are not able to inform parents or carers of the results sent to the exam boards, which as stated above are subject to change and as such the results will be awarded on results day **Thursday 20th August 2020**. It is imperative that Year 11 pupils continue to complete work set on Teams as this will continue to prepare them for post-16, but also in the event their grades are not as high as they feel they could have been, there will be an opportunity for pupils to sit exams. Details on this will follow closer to the time.

Please see the following link to the Ofqual information:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878854/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Support for Young People and Adults during COVID-19

We know that this is a difficult time particularly if you are living with someone who may be harming you or that you are scared of. If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, then call 999 and ask for the Police. If you are not in immediate danger but require support, you can contact **Harbour on 03000 202 525** (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you are aged between 11 and 18 and live or study in Darlington and finding the current situation hard to cope with you can call a free, dedicated helpline being delivered by the **Listening Post (07847 933799)** and **Darlington MIND (07432 843161)**

Advice if your child is unwell:

https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/covid19_advice_for_parents_when_child_unwell_or_injured_poster.pdf

Communication During School Closure

We will continue to provide updates via ParentMail and the school website. Please see our website for all previous correspondence related to the Coronavirus School Closure.

For general enquiries, please email enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

Thank you once again for your support through this difficult time. We hope to see the pupils very soon!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Lindsay', with a long, sweeping underline.

Nicholas Lindsay
Head of School