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15th May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: CORONA VIRUS UPDATE – 15/5/20 (0155-19NLI)

Latest Schools update from Department for Education

As you are all aware the latest information for parents / carers was released on the 11th May 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

The guidance states,

“From the week commencing 1st June, we are asking:

- all schools and childcare providers to continue to offer places to the priority groups – vulnerable children and children of critical workers – they have been supporting since the end of March.*

This approach aims to limit numbers within schools and further education settings while ensuring that the children and young people who can benefit from attending most are able to do so.

We will only do this provided that the 5 key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programmes set out in the roadmap are operating effectively. As a result, we are asking schools, colleges and childcare providers to plan on this basis, ahead of confirmation that these tests are met.” i.e. it is not a ‘definite’ that anything will change on this date”.

Should the 5 key tests be satisfied, The Department for Education has expressed a desire that *Secondary schools should also prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning.*

The feasibility of this being possible should the 5 key tests be satisfied, is currently being reviewed by all interested parties.

There is no anticipated return to the school site in the Academic Year 2019-20 for Years 7, 8 and 9.

There is no change at this stage to the qualifying factors for families under the critical key worker categorisation.



SWIFT Academies, along with parents / carers, Trade Unions etc. is currently digesting, reviewing and considering the implications and the next steps it will take as result of the documentation.

Therefore, we will be informing you in due course of the plan for each respective school within the Trust for the remainder of the Summer Term.

Year 11 Support

Further to the letter dated 12th May 2020, please encourage your Year 11 child to access the college websites as they are full of updates for 2020 School Leavers. Here are the links for Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and Darlington College, but there are many other providers offering support too.

- <https://www.geliz.ac.uk/applications-for-september-2020/>
- <https://darlington.ac.uk/school-leavers/dc-place-pledge/>

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Raw continue to offer Careers support to all Year 11 leavers and have been in contact with many families. If your child has any queries, please ask them to contact Mrs Smith or Mr Raw via the enquiries facility. If needed, they can request 'virtual' appointments with them to discuss their options.

Home School Learning

Thank you for all of your efforts at home via Teams, Social Media and in paper form. Remember if pupils are accessing Teams via mobile phones, they can work on paper and upload a photograph of their efforts, this is proving popular and successful for many children.

We have previously communicated a lot of information about how to support your children – I thought I would share with you the advice we gave pupils this week as part of our weekly 'Showcase Thursday' – which highlights great work that children have completed at home.

This week we asked them to:

1. Keep sending work pictures in to your teachers to get nominated for SHOWCASE THURSDAY.
2. If you have social media, follow our departments and look out for #WeAreLongfield
3. Follow your school timetable and complete your work, stay in a routine
4. Read for 20 minutes a day
5. Go for a walk or a run to get some fresh air
6. Look after your loved ones, a phone call to ask how someone is will mean more than you imagine!

We will be introducing a 'Home School Superstar' reward system – look out for postcards arriving home. Children will also be participating in national 'Thank a Teacher Day' which is on Wednesday 20th May 2020.

Please remind your children that Miss. Prince continues to monitor all actions by pupils on Teams and they should access it using the same conduct rules as they would in a regular in-school lesson.

School Website

You will notice a transitional period as our website updates to a fresh, contemporary and more consumer friendly format - there will be significant improvements in content as the Summer develops. In the interim period there will be some transition between the versions of the website but rest assured we will keep the section relating to the current partial lockdown totally up to date.

The Corona Virus (COVID-19) Section of the website remains the key area where you can find out all key information regarding welfare, Safeguarding, mental health, Year 11 Centre Assessed Grades, Free School Meals and many more related topics as well as all of the latest *Department for Education* and *Public Health* releases.

Half-Term Opening – Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2020

The school will be opening for children of critical key workers and vulnerable children if there is a necessity for them to attend school.

If you would like your child to access school for any of the aforementioned dates, please text the following information for the attention of Mrs Payne to 07825 401 199.

- Child's Name
- Year Group
- Required dates in Half-Term Holiday
- Occupation of Key Worker(s) - for adults within the household
- Whether a Grab Bag is required for lunch

Please note, information should be received no later than midday on Wednesday 20th May 2020.

Accelerated Reader

A number of pupils have been in touch asking how to access Accelerated Reader - The access details are on English TEAMS at the start of the week. Once your child has read the book, they can do a quiz using the Accelerated Reader tab on the school website.

If you don't have any books at home to read, please use this website for e-books:
<https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>

Durham Constabulary

Durham Constabulary have designed Certificates of Achievement to thank school pupils for playing their part in keeping people safe during lockdown, by completing their work online or in work packs or by coming into school if they are children of key workers. If you would like to print one of these certificates for your child, please email Miss Eldrington: reldrington@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

Change to the School Day

One of the decisions the Senior Leadership Team have made since being in lockdown is to change the organisation of the school day. The school start and end times remain the same, but PD time will be moving to before break time, in the interest of having an undisrupted afternoon of lessons after lunch. We know some parents / carers may wish to make their child aware of this in order to prepare for changes when we return. **The School Day 2020-21 remains 8.50-3.20 (After-School Detentions and Year 11 interventions until 4.00pm) and pupils should aim to arrive on site via the Pupil Entrance at 8.45am.**

Social Media Developments

As I mentioned in my last letter, we are currently updating our social media presence. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter 'Longfield Academy' @WeAreLongfield, and Instagram @longfieldcareersandcommunity for updates and messages.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school, as soon as it is safe for us to do so. For the time being, continue to follow government guidance and stay safe.

#WeAreLongfield

Yours sincerely



Mr N Lindsay
Head of School