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05 June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Coronavirus Update - 5/6/20 (0158-19NLI)

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I would like to wish pupils a virtual 'Welcome Back' to the second half of our summer term and provide you with further developments and updates.

Year 10 Pupils – Academic Mentor Meetings

Thank you to all Year 10 pupils who have responded to the email regarding Academic Mentoring Meetings, which involves pupils and parents / carers meeting with a member of the Leadership Group. As we have now collated the number of pupils requiring either a face-to-face or virtual meeting, we will be in touch in due course to provide a timetable of appointments and to update you on the procedures for these meetings. With this in mind, please encourage your child to check their emails regularly.

Home Learning - Latest Department for Education Advice for Parents / Carers

There is useful and up to date information on the Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-cov>

Retrieval Strategies Launch

You may have seen via Social Media or on your child's email account, that we are launching 6 Retrieval Strategies to help pupils know more, and remember more. Your child will be familiar with some of these already through their work on Microsoft Teams. The retrieval strategies are: Jigsaws, Maps, Flash Cards, Knowledge Organisers, Quizzes and Whiteboards – See if you can work together to match these up to the icons below! Your child will definitely be seeing a lot more of these in the future.



E-Safety Information

With so much learning taking place online and our pupils spending more time using electronic devices, it is important to ensure they are doing so safely. The E-Safety blog on the Longfield website has plenty of up to date guidance for both pupils and parents / carers including information on age restrictions.



The age limit for social media is 13 as dictated by the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act 1998 (COPPA). You will also find information on our Facebook and Twitter page. Please contact Mrs Hickerson, Assistant Headteacher, if you would like any further guidance or support.

Young Minds Parent to Parent Advice

Please see the following link for the latest guidance from Young Minds:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/3762/coronavirus-parent-to-parent-advice-guide.pdf>

National School Sport Week at Home (#NSSWtogether)

Longfield Academy is preparing to join the Youth Sport Trust and Sky Sports to help young people and families up and down the country engage in a week of virtual sporting challenges.

With young people set to miss out on their main school sports day this summer, the Youth Sport Trust is holding a UK wide campaign from 20th to 26th June, to give families, communities, schools and sports clubs the chance to capture the enjoyment, competition and camaraderie they have been missing out on during weeks of school closures and social distancing.

With social distancing in place, pupils and staff at Longfield Academy will be taking part in the week by completing a range of sporting challenges over Social Media and Teams.

Anyone can register to take part and will receive videos and activity cards to help them plan a series of challenges across the week for their families, neighbours, friends or colleagues.

To sign up to take part in this summer's National School Sport Week at Home go to:

www.youthsporttrust.org/national-school-sport-week-home

Social Media

During the lock down period we have increased our efforts to use different forms of social media to engage with pupils, parents / carers and the wider community. Facebook and Twitter (@WeAreLongfield) are updated frequently and aim to provide information on careers, examples of fantastic work on Showcase Thursday, and challenges, all to help promote engagement in the family home and community.

Using different forms of social media will hopefully allow us to share and celebrate more as a wider community and increase the aspirations of our young people. As a school we really want to hear from you more often and celebrate some of the remarkable achievements of our young people at home and in the community.

Please keep in touch via email socialmedia@longfield.swiftacademies to celebrate #WeAreLongfield.

During June, we have a challenge called 'Can you bank enough points to become a Millionaire!?' This is where pupils and parents / carers are encouraged to complete set challenges to gain points. Full details can be found on our Facebook page.

School Website

Can I please once again please stress to you the excellence in these times of the Longfield Academy website, which has recently been updated. All of the above information, as well as the letters we send home during the school closure, are uploaded to our website. I would also like to highlight the SWIFT Coronavirus section; it is an amalgam of Department for Education, Public Health and various mental health, welfare and educational resources and ideas - as a 'one-stop shop' for all things related to COVID education and family welfare:
<https://swiftacademies.org.uk/covid19/>

As always, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school via enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk or telephone Reception on 01325 380 815.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time.

#WeAreLongfield

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Lindsay
Head of School