

4th May 2020

Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you have started to settle into a new rhythm of life, and that you are managing to find some positives in the “new normal”.

We are continuing to review and evolve what we are doing to support the education of our pupils, and the wellbeing of our families. Responding to the daily updates and guidance continues to be a challenge for everyone across the country, but I hope you will all recognise the efforts of our staff at GTS to maintain not only quality learning but also a sense of community.

I am sure many of you will have heard much discussion in the media about schools potentially reopening. Can I please once again ask you not to make any assumptions at this stage. There are a lot of details and issues to be resolved at National level before a strategy is released, this will undoubtedly take some time. I do not want you and the pupils worrying unnecessarily and trying to “second guess” what arrangements you will need to put in place. The only thing we can be certain of is that the school **will not** fully open initially and that we will need to manage a phased return. There is no telling at this point what that phased return will look like and what pupils, lessons, timings etc. it will involve.

For now, it is vitally important that pupils continue to do their very best with the remote learning solutions that are available to them. The long-term impact of the closure needs to be minimised and we all need to do our best in these challenging times. Having spoken to the Heads of Learning on Friday, they expressed concerns about the amount of work submitted on Show My Homework. What is not clear is whether this is due to non-engagement/completion, or simply forgetting to submit the work. This data is important to us so we can target contact from staff and to ensure pupils are supported with their learning as much as possible. Please encourage your children to submit every piece of work and contact their teachers if they are having any difficulties.

I will write again as soon as I have more information. The school website will be updated this week to focus on our four key areas; Covid-19 updates, Safeguarding, Transition and Online challenges / Social Media.

Please keep safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher

STAY AT HOME - PROTECT THE NHS - SAVE LIVES