



13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents or Carers

### **Update on COVID**

I hope this update finds you well since I last wrote to you on 1 May, and that you and your family enjoyed a good bank holiday weekend.

### **Government Announcement and Potential Partial Opening for Y10 and Y12**

I held off writing to you at the end of last week, given the government announcement which aired on Sunday. I know by now many of you will have seen and heard this announcement and the statement to Parliament yesterday. You will have seen from this that the government would like secondary schools to reopen on a limited basis to provide “some face to face support to supplement the remote learning of Y10 and Y12 students.”

The DfE guidance to families can be seen here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

They envisage this happening from the week starting 1 June, providing that their 5 key tests for controlling the COVID 19 virus are being met nationally.

Following the statement, the Department for Education released on Monday night guidance for schools which will help us create an action plan and to risk assess how we can meet the government’s expectations safely. School leaders nationally are looking very closely at this guidance, as well as examining updates from trades unions which are coming through this week.

I am acutely aware that parents, carers and students from Y10 and Y12 will be really keen to know our plans as soon as possible, and we will share these with you before the half term break starts on 23 May. This gives us time to plan to do this in a way that follows the guidelines, is safe for both students and staff and takes into account feedback from staff and trades unions.

We’re going to be doing everything we can to make sure we’re ready to receive students from these year groups, if and when it’s safe for us to do so. This is because all of us want to be able to have students back at school as soon as we can, providing it is safe.

Once we are able to partially re-open, we will encourage students to attend, but we will also not pressure anyone with students in Y10 and Y12 to send their children to school if they are uncomfortable or worried. This is why we will be clear with you what our plan is, so that you can make an informed decision. This reflects government guidance not to make school attendance compulsory during this time.

### **Key Worker and Vulnerable Student Provision**

In the meantime, we remain open as we have done since 23 March for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. This will continue.

Whilst we are aware some employers will be encouraging parents and carers to return to work, we are not in a position currently to extend places to other students not in these categories.

### **Distance Learning**

Thank you for your feedback and support around distance learning. We know it is difficult for parents, carers and students at this time. Please do continue to contact either myself or Ben Cotton if you have points you would like to raise.

Please also see at the end of this update a whole host of resources from our Head of English and Media, Sophie Killock, which will help encourage your daughter or son to be reading for pleasure, including listening to our teachers read! Having finished "Overstory," I'm about to embark on "Panchinko" by Min Jin Lee (whilst also loving re-reading 'Danny Champion of the World' with my youngest!)

### **Lockdown Video**

In these difficult times, staff wanted to give the students and yourselves something more light-hearted! Please see the link below for our KEVICC lockdown video, which we hope will bring a few smiles to many faces:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/keviccweb/videos>

Finally, thank you again for the support you are showing to our community at this time.

Best wishes



Alan Salt  
**Principal**

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### **Reading for Pleasure**

Although lockdown is a strange and slightly uncomfortable thing for a lot of us, it is also a rare opportunity to stop and spend some quiet time thinking and reading.

If you are in Year 7 and 8, you will have Accelerated Reader logon and you can access the programme through Unify at home on Monday to Friday. If you have finished your school library book, you can choose another book from home. If you type it into AR Book Finder, it will tell you what ZPD the book is and how many points you will get for reading it! You can read or listen to books in order to quiz. Always quiz as soon as possible after finishing a book as this will mean the content is fresher in your memory. Your teachers will know when you have quizzed and will be able to reward you with Class Charts points if you score over 85%.

We have bought MyOn for all students which allows you to read or download any of 5,000 books on your device from home if you are struggling to get hold of things to read. Many of these titles are non-fiction but there are also graphic novels, stories and works of classic literature. Year 10 can access A Christmas Carol on here. Go to the tab on Unify. Your logon is the same as for Unify (19rsmith) and the password is abc. Year 7 and 8 can quiz on these books afterwards.

Your English teachers have been recording themselves reading the BFG for you to listen to at home! Go to the KEVICC YouTube channel to access a chapter a day from Monday 4 May:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMYRVzzQP3SYF0rdd7tqaHQ>

Aquila is a monthly magazine for children aged 8-12, with articles, activities and puzzles covering science, history and general knowledge, plus themed topics. Try this free, specially produced, 92 page mega issue:

<https://view.joomag.com/aquila-childrens-magazine-magnificentmegamag-92pages/0684174001584550709?short>

The public library have audio books that can be downloaded. If you don't have membership you can click on 'Not a member' and set up an account online whilst libraries are still closed.

[https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/ebooks?gclid=EAlaIqObChMI0a7V58KL6QIVVPIRCh022wRhEAA YAIAAEgLYy\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/ebooks?gclid=EAlaIqObChMI0a7V58KL6QIVVPIRCh022wRhEAA YAIAAEgLYy_D_BwE)

Audible have also made it free to download and listen to their stories <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>  
Authors you might be interested in:

· Guy Bass Video book reading plus more fun stuff on his website. <https://www.guybass.com/home-school>

· Chris Bradford 'Young Samurai: The Way of Fire' chapter readings on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/youngsamurai2008/videos>

· Cressida Cowell our Children's laureate is reading aloud a chapter a day from How to Train your Dragon on her Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLE5MZB5pedUMNJLdgu0wYaSIL0dRLHcU0>

· Helena Duggan is Reading a chapter a day from A Place Called Perfect:

<http://www.helenadugganwrites.com/post/a-place-called-perfect-story-time-chapter-1>

· The Etherington Brothers British comic, book and film creators. They created Von Doogan puzzle adventures for The Phoenix. Their clients include Disney, DreamWorks, Aardman, and the BBC. They have also worked on Star Wars, Transformers, Kung Fu Panda and How to Train Your Dragon:

<http://theetheringtonbrothers.blogspot.com>

· Read some chapters from their comics and books:

<http://comicsboutique.blogspot.com/>

· 300 free How to Think When You Draw tutorials <http://theetheringtonbrothers.blogspot.com/p/every-how-to-think-when-you-draw.html>

· Free 50-page course on How to Make Comics, drawing lessons, puzzles, brain-teasers, lesson plans and much more (on Twitter). <https://twitter.com/EtheringtonBros>

· Neil Gaiman The official website for younger readers. Watch the latest Neil Gaiman videos and see Neil (and some famous friends!) read fantastic The Graveyard Book and Coraline in their entirety. Trailers, Meet Neil Gaiman, the books, illustrators, games and activities. <http://www.mousecircus.com/videos/>

· Anthony Horowitz Reading aloud chapters from Stormbreaker each week:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/alexriderinsider>

· Marcus Sedgwick website. The author is recording a chapter of his book Floodland every day and posting videos on his website. <https://marcussedgwick.com/floodland/>

· Andy Stanton reads Mr Gum and the Biscuit Billionaire on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU5FBOX1m-0>

· David Walliams A new audio story is being released each day from World's worst children 2

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

· Jacqueline Wilson New stories of Tracy Beaker:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/tracy-beaker-cbbc-podast>

· Tom Palmer Football stories. Two e-books free to read online:

<https://royoftheroversofficial.com/news/2297>

Please keep an eye on the Google Classroom streams as we will be putting up any other ideas and resources we come across.

Do email me or your teacher if you have any questions or suggestions. None of us has ever been in a situation like this before and we are trying to make the most of it! Getting emails from students is the highlight of my day and no teacher is going to be anything but impressed if you attempt a piece of work and do your best, even if you struggle and need extra help to finish it.

Please take care, stay at home and stay safe.

All the best,

Sophie Killock

**Head of English and Media**