



Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

30th March 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

One week in and we hope that you and your families are all well and coping with life under lockdown.

School Transport.

If key worker parents rely upon school transport, please read the attached letter from the Local Authority.

Year 11 and Year 13.

The Government have not yet given schools any further details as to how they will decide upon grades for examinations this summer. We anticipate that this will be decided upon by the examination boards and based on the range of data they have already suggested. The Government issued an update that can be found [here](#), which indicates we should find out more soon. It remains vital that students work to complete their courses.

As we move into May, and the point that Year 11 would have left for study leave we will provide bridging packs for students so that they can begin to prepare themselves for A Level studies.

Student work.

Hopefully students are progressing through their work packs well. Students should ensure that they print the work off and stick it in their books as they do it, or save it so that they can print it off when we return to school.

As per my previous letters, we will not be setting additional work over what would have been the Easter holidays. The next fortnight work pack will cover the fortnight of Monday 20th April – Friday 1st May and will be available to download from the school website.

Students should organise the work as it best suits them. Some will find it easier to follow their timetable, others might like a day focused on a particular subject. Either is fine. It is likely that students are progressing through the work at a quicker rate than they might have in a typical one-hour lesson. We have to remember that in a “normal” lesson, there is much discussion and debate and collaborative working that takes much longer than getting on with work alone.

Top tips for students (in addition to the ideas on your work packs and the school web):

- Agree a topic with friends and then FaceTime or message each other and do the work together.
- Read, Read, Read. Now is the time to catch up on all those books you want to, or meant to, read. Be adventurous in your choices and do not just stick to your favourite authors. Share recommendations with friends and family members. There is no such thing as wasted time when you have your head in a good book. There are many free downloadable books on the web – give some of them a go.
- Children across the world are having their lessons at home now and there has been an explosion in videos, blogs and online lessons – support your learning with some of these relevant and useful materials.
- Be active – join in the Joe Wicks daily sessions or similar. Get out in the garden or do some exercise at home.
- Avoid the temptation to become nocturnal and screen obsessed! It is easy for one or two “duvet days” to extend into weeks. Stick to a decent bedtime, limit your screen time and remember that there are still such things as “school nights”.

Top tips for parents:

Family life is very different now. We very much appreciate the increased level of support and responsibility for learning you now have as home learning becomes the norm.

Here are some information reports we have found quite interesting:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51960865>

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52010968?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education&link_location=live-reporting-story)

[52010968?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education&link_location=live-reporting-story](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education&link_location=live-reporting-story)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51936286>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51959957>

The SHS School Closure Challenge:

Each week we will send you a fun challenge; something that is maybe a little different to “normal” schoolwork. The idea of the Challenge is to encourage students and siblings (staff and parents?!) to get involved and try something new; a project to be creative, to help our emotional well-being and keep us connected as a school community.

For our first Challenge, we think the time is right to “channel our inner unicorn”. Unicorns are wise, intrepid and adventurous and we would encourage all of those characteristics in members of our school community. So, attached with this letter is a sheet of ideas (you will be able to find many more on the internet). Browse through the Challenge sheet and select a project (or two) to complete. Take a photograph of your completed project and send it to the school enquiries email address.

The deadline for entries to the Unicorn Challenge is Friday 10th April. We will post some of the pictures onto the school social media accounts and make a montage for the website too. There will be a prize for the best entries and Mrs Ray was also considering house points too!

Mr Garbett’s Song Of The Day.

What a fantastic idea – check out your emails and put on your thinking caps. What is your favourite song and why? Email it to Mr Garbett and he will pick one and send to the whole school. What a great way to stay connected and create our own SHS playlist.

During these extraordinary times, it is important to remember that normal routines will have to evolve and adapt and we hope that we can continue to support our school community with those challenges. We also want to stay connected so that when we do re-open, students will be able to pick up where we left off.

Wishing you and your families well,

Yours sincerely



M K Anderson
Headmistress