

24 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing on behalf of the schools in the Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust to update you on the latest advice and guidance given to us by the Department for Education in terms of the current obligations placed upon schools and the arrangements for those students who were due to sit exams this summer, which have been cancelled due to Coronavirus.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your patience and support as we endeavour to navigate an unprecedented situation and assure you we will do everything in our power to ensure that the children of essential key workers as well as our most vulnerable students can continue to come into school and be cared for. Each Trust school is now in the process of developing a staff rota system which will ensure the school remains open for as long as possible. I am sure you will appreciate the challenges of organising this given the fact that some staff are currently self-isolating or fall under the 'vulnerable' category with staff availability changing daily. We ask that you review our school websites daily for any changes to the provision on offer and check text messages from school. We will plan to create a local Hub of provision should schools, in the longer term, not have sufficient staff capacity to remain open. We take our incumbent duty very seriously and want to play our part in ensuring that we support our parent-colleagues who are critical to the continued functioning of our public services.

It has been a challenging few days. However, please know that we have all felt so much disappointment for our students who have not been given the opportunity to sit their exams this summer. This was never more palpable when on Friday, staff were obliged to say 'goodbye' without knowing when we would see them again. I applaud all students, staff and parents for their many years of support; it pained me to see so much hard work and dedication not come to fruition or be celebrated in the usual way.

Since Friday, the exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards have announced how they will work with schools and teachers to provide grades to students so they can progress successfully to their next stage of their education, including college, sixth form courses, apprenticeships and employment. This means that our students will be awarded grades which fairly reflect the work they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the academic year for students who wish to. Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade they believe the student would have received if the exam had gone ahead. A range of evidence will be used and data, including mock exams, non-exam assessment. Ofqual will provide schools with advice on how to do this so the process is fair and robust. We will communicate with you once we know more.

The school has already communicated to you our intention to provide work via Frog Learning. Please bear with us whilst we ensure that the work being set is meaningful and of the standard that will provide students with the required knowledge and understanding to move them forward with their studies on their return to school. The completion of work will be monitored carefully by Curriculum Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team. A system of reporting home to parents/carers is currently being developed to communicate as to whether we have any concerns regarding your child's completion of the work being set.

As well as Frog Learn, we are looking at using the Microsoft Teams platform as a way forward in providing

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online lessons to enable staff to deliver quality teaching experiences and explanations.

Staff are currently inundated with questions and queries from students and parents with regards to work. They will do their utmost to respond in a timely manner and will endeavour to ensure, moving forward, that instructions are clearer and more detailed.

Year 10 Updates

Mock Exams

Year 10 students have been provided/sent with mock exam papers for English, maths, science and humanities via post. Please can we ask again for your support by collecting these from your child and putting them in a secure place. Please do not allow students to open the envelope as it is highly likely that we will be asking for these to be completed at home in examination conditions. Further information as to how to use these exam papers will be communicated to Year 10 parents at a later date. There has been an administration error with some students receiving the wrong papers, this only affects students with surnames beginning with 'P' and onwards. In the vast majority of cases, students will be sitting the same papers so this is not an issue. The only exam paper this applies to is maths paper 3. If your child has received the wrong paper, the correct paper has been sent out again today. All students will receive an email outlining which mock papers they should sit to ensure there is no confusion.

Revision Guides

Year 10 students that were in school last week were provided with revision guides for all of the subjects they study in Key Stage 4. We have tried to facilitate this for students that are self-isolating. However, if your child has not been provided with revision guides please email admin@hungerhillschool.com and we will endeavour to make arrangements for you to collect these from school where possible. The revision guides can be used as independent study or in reserve in the case of internet disruption. Class teachers are aware of which students have copies of specific revision guides and may set work using them via Frog.

Work Experience

Given the current climate, we have made the decision to cancel work experience for Year 10 students. The careers team will be contacting placement providers to inform them of this. However, as many students have independently arranged placements, and details of employers are not complete at school, please can we ask that as parents, you contact employers to cancel arrangements.

Year 9 Update

Mock Exams

Year 9 students will be sent mock exam papers for English, maths and science via post. Please can we ask for your support by collecting these from your child and putting them in a secure place. Please do not allow students to open the envelope as it is highly likely that we will be asking for these to be completed at home in examination conditions. Further information as to how to use these exam papers will be communicated to Year 9 parents at a later date.

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Revision Guides

Year 9 students that were in school last week were provided with revision guides for English, maths and science. There is a limited supply left and should you wish to have a copy of the revision guides, please email admin@hungerhillschool.com and we will endeavour to make arrangements for you to collect these from school where possible. The revision guides can be used as independent study or in reserve in the case of internet disruption. Class teachers are aware of which students have copies of specific revision guides and may set work using them via Frog.

Free School Meals

Students in receipt of school meals who are not eligible to attend will be entitled to either vouchers for a local shop or a meal bag from their school, depending on where they live. Parents of these students have been contacted directly with more details. If you believe your child is entitled to a free school meal, and would like to take up this offer, please email peters.d@hungerhillschool.com directly.

Should you wish to contact your school for anything other than queries about student work, you should use the admin email address and we will endeavour to contact you as soon as possible. We have limited reception cover at this time so you are likely to get a quicker response via email rather than leaving a voicemail on the school line.

We will continue to update you via letters, text messages and the school website.

Yours sincerely

H. Redford-Hernandez

Mrs H Redford-Hernandez
CEO
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