



Dear all,

This is a shout out to all of you, in school or at home, and I will be writing to you regularly during this time when we can't all be together to do our all to slow down the spread of the virus you will know all about from the news and the media. You're all absolutely in my thoughts and all of our time and energy is going in to keeping school running safely – top priority for you, your families and all the staff - and as well as it possibly can for your education, whether that's here on site, or virtually, via the Frog Portal.

No matter how long we are separated from each other by distance, we are still very much together as the Noadswood family, and as tutor groups, classes and Houses that you look to every day – nothing will change that.

We are very proud of you and thankful to your parents for the way you have responded to our need to follow Government advice as it updates daily to keep everyone in our community safe. The support we have had has been fantastic. Please say to your parents and carers to keep questions and thoughts and concerns coming to our special email address: health@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

As you know had to make some tough decisions yesterday, to call off clubs for the foreseeable future, and to call off events/trips until the end of the academic year. We had to do it for two reasons. The first reason is that we know that gatherings of people are now being advised against, again to slow down the spread of the virus. The second reason is that we now have a number of members of our staff team rightly isolating themselves at home because they or a member of their family have a symptom that could be the virus. That means we have to deploy everyone else on those key purposes of a school in order to keep things running well: education, continuity of learning and health and safety.

We know how hard that was for some of you to hear, especially Year 11s, excitedly anticipating Prom. Let me reassure you that we will do our all to arrange this event for later in the year if we can – we can't say when that will be yet, but we can say that would be our goal, as much as it would be for all of you.

We are also really aware of the very real concerns about the upcoming Summer GCSE examinations. Let me reassure you all that we are in close contact with JCQ, the official body that looks after the provision and administration of exams right across our country, and the minute we are provided with any information we will share it with you. Until we hear otherwise, Year 11s should continue to revise as usual, and if you're at home, you can do this using the huge array of material available to them via the FROG portal, and you can get in touch with your teachers.

It's a genuinely anxious time for us all, though, isn't it? With everything so different, even though we know the differences come from doing all the right things to keep everyone safe and well. We are here for you about those anxieties just as much as we are about your learning. Whether you're at home or at school, check out the Wellbeing site on Frog – it will signpost you to all sorts of resources and ideas to help you keep steady through these changing times and to ways you can relax and stay as mindful as possible each day. You can also ePraise message a member of staff you trust – any of us – with a question or a concern or just to say hello and keep in touch, particularly if you are at home. And keep in touch with your friends with kindness, care, respect and fun together – it's so important to take the time to do that every day.

Also, if you're at home, take some time each afternoon, to plan the next day for yourself – a bit of structure, with some variety to your day, will honestly make you feel good, I promise.

We're here for you and here together, whether at home or at school,

With my best wishes and big thoughts about you all,

Miss Marshall

Headteacher