



Noadswood

Fit for learning, fit for life



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Hello all,

It's been a quieter but very focused day today – lots to do to plan following the announcement last evening from Government that schools will be closed from end of play tomorrow – Friday – until further notice, except for young people in the families of frontline workers, doing so much in this virus emergency, and for some of our most vulnerable young people. We've been working hard starting to get our plans into place for those of you who'll be joining us in school next week, and sharing all our ideas with our friends in other schools. There's a strong sense of team spirit in the Waterside and the New Forest about all this.

Then there's been our response to the news that the May/June GCSE exam series will not now run. We understand just how much that will have shocked and worried our Y11 pupils, and some Y10s, and all of their families – we felt the same though we know it's right to put safety, and healthy communities, above all other considerations. Like I said to all your parents and carers last night, our hearts go out to you all.

Our message for Y11 was and is, keep working through the revision and the completion of the work your teachers and you have been wading through together so brilliantly – last night, we had Y11s all over our school, staying behind for catch up and clinics, and today we've got amazing artists doing their stuff in their exams. We're so proud of you all.

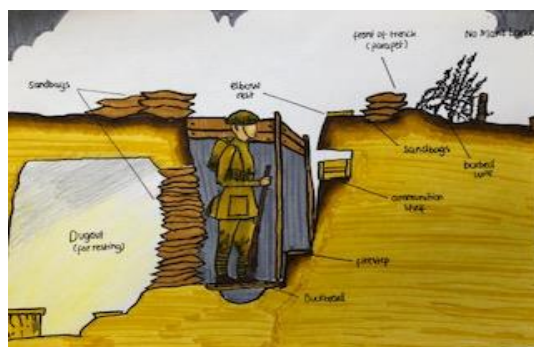
As the time goes, perhaps think about what your next steps are going to be, beyond Noadswood, and focus your curiosity and your attention particularly on those areas. We know that, for good mental health, there's a real value to you completing courses, and taking your mind to what stimulates it and makes it interested. There's something important about feeling that true, lovely sense of achievement that completion brings. Irrespective of exams, or not. And this afternoon in assembly, we'll be talking to Y11 about how we're going to support you with that approach to learning and looking after your wellbeing.

We're also going to talk to Y11 about having the chance tomorrow to bring a shirt to get signed. We can also talk together about ideas for a reunion event sometime, and how we can get done things like hoodies and yearbooks – even though we don't know when yet, we do know that there is a massive will at Noadswood to do all of this with you, as well as a Prom at a later date, as I mentioned yesterday. Let's keep talking.

And for all pupils, and ourselves, let's have a structure to our day that includes some work and some r and r and some time connecting with friends and with us – here's one time when we're lucky to have so many electronic platforms for communicating with each other, problematic as it can be in other ways. When you're worried about are you doing enough/are you doing too much/you feel lonely/you've got a question – we're all here for you over ePraise and email. Mrs Loveday is also soon going to have news of an hour a day when you can phone the school if you need just to have a chat with someone – more to come on that.

We promise we will share every single piece of information we hear about what is planned from Government as soon as we hear it – we'll never hold anything back from you.

Two particular highlights for me today have been this lovely work a parent sent me yesterday after my shout out to see what you're up to while you're not here with us. Check out this amazing Y8 History:



I promised you certificates/prizes, when we're back together in person, if you send me great work, so don't hold back!

The second highlight was this note from one of you keen to help in some really brilliant ways:

First of all I just want to say thank you so much for how well you have handled the Covid-19 situation and helping out and making sure everyone stays calm! I do have to say I am very sad about school closing but I understand it is for the best and hopefully this madness can calm down and we can all get back to normal soon! I do want to keep my mind busy whilst we have this time off, and I had an idea that perhaps I could write an anonymous blog about what its like not going to school or an article about how to stay calm from a students perspective? I am also very willing to carry on discussing about climate change throughout email and whatever else you need assistance for, I am happy to help!

I can't wait to message back and get some of these ideas going! What ever ideas occur to you, let me or another member of the team know – we can communicate so brilliantly though we're not all going to see each other for a while.

We hope, if you're already at home, you're getting on well with the work on the Frog portal – just a heads up, it won't be working between 12 and 2 tomorrow afternoon, while we sort ways to boost the server, so we have less ups and downs with it when lots of us are making use. We look forward to sharing that's been successful!

Have a good evening, wherever you are,

I'll be in touch again really soon,

Miss Marshall