

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers & students

I hope you are well and managing to stay safe. I am writing with some important updates with regards to student contact and home learning.

Home Learning

All of the home learning activities have been updated where necessary and students should start working on them from Monday 4th May. We are very conscious that we simply do not know when we will see many of our students again and therefore it is critical that all of our students are completing all of their Home Learning tasks.

From Monday 11th May all of our students in year10 will be set substantial weekly tasks that they will need to complete and send in to their teachers using their school email (more about that below!) at the end of each school week. Where this work is not completed, teachers will be contacting home to discuss why and to request that the work is completed. Teachers will also be emailing students on their school emails to offer support, advice and guidance.

All work in any year group can be completed on-line or at home on paper and we are very much looking forward to seeing it so please keep it safe.

GCSE Pod

All pupils in Years 9-11 have been given guidance on how to access and use GCSE pod. This has become one of our main ways to set work for our pupils during this time and it is imperative that your child accesses this each day.

Student email

All students in every year group at Smith's Wood Academy have their own school email account provided by Microsoft. This account is easily accessible via the Outlook app or Outlook website and students simply need to enter their email address and normal school password. To support you with this, Jack Hendry in year 9 has produced a tutorial to help access your emails as part of his ICT work. This tutorial is attached to the My Ed message. If you require any assistance with login details for your child please contact the school office on office@smiths-wood.com

Staff will be contacting pupils each week via their school email and it is strongly advised that if you have yet to log on, you do so in readiness of next week's learning activities been set. It is also a good way for your child to receive support and direct communication from his/her class teachers.

Extra work

If all Home Learning Tasks have been completed, the following websites have been set up to support children across the country and are full of work that students can be accessing.

www.thenational.academy. Select 'classroom' from the home page, choose the correct year group and subject and you are off and running.

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize. Select 'secondary' from the home page, choose the correct key stage / year group and again, you are off and running.

Student well-being

You will be aware that as an Academy we take the well-being of our students and families very seriously and because of this we are increasing our contact with you. From Monday 3rd May Mentors and other school staff will be making contact with every child, every week. This is simply to check in on them and to find out whether they require help with their school work or any other support. The call will only take a couple of minutes, no more. If we are unable to make contact with a child then we will follow our usual safeguarding procedures, which may include safe and well visits to the family home. It is likely that the number our staff use will not be shown on your phones so please do answer the phone even if there is no caller ID.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any more information.

Yours faithfully



Mrs K Craig
Head of Academy