

30 April 2020

Dear parent/carer

I wanted to provide an update this week on our current thinking with regard to the Covid-19 crisis and schooling at Goldington Academy. Can I begin by thanking everybody who has provided us with feedback this week? In the main it has been very positive, but all your suggestions on how we can make your child's learning experience better are valued. I would also like to remind you that all teacher email addresses, including senior staff, can be found on our website under the "About" tab followed by the "Staff" tab.

<https://fluencycontent2-schoolwebsite.netdna-ssl.com/FileCluster/GoldingtonAcademy/MainFolder/Documents/Information/2019-2020/Emails-of-staff-Feb-2020.pdf>

Many queries can be dealt with by your child's form tutor/subject teacher in the first instance. We aim to deal with any questions you have in a prompt and timely fashion.

Next week I will write to Year 8 students about their curriculum in 2020-21 and I will update Year 11 students on the work we have been doing to ensure that your child is awarded the GCSE grades they deserve. Some parents may find the following BBC documents (published on our website on the homepage) of use to you.

Advice for parents:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdx447h>

Where is best to study:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6rxyyc?xtor=CS8-1000-%5bDiscovery_Cards%5d-%5bMulti_Site%5d-%5bSL07%5d-%5bPS_BITESIZE~C~~P_Homestudyarea

How to use Bitesize effectively:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfwrcqt>



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As a parent myself, I am acutely aware how unsettling this period of lockdown is for our young people. After the initial euphoria of extra time off school, our children are coming to terms with the fact that all the things they like doing: playing sport, seeing their friends and going to school are simply unavailable to them at this time.

As Principal, my first duty of care has been to make sure that your child's learning could continue, and I have been proud of how hard my teachers have worked behind the scenes to plan, set and mark meaningful work on Showmyhomework. Now that we are in the fourth week without school, I would like you to have some personal contact from school, so please expect a call from your child's form tutor or head of year. Please take this opportunity to ask any questions about home learning or seek any additional support you need to home-school your child.

One piece of good news: both school building projects are developing well with safe distancing being practiced by the contractors. The £7 million refurbishment of school is still on track to be completed for October and our new Art block should be ready to use from September. I've just witnessed some of the panels being erected this morning!

From Monday, we will be starting a weekly whole-school competition. I won't give too much away at this stage other than to say there will be real prizes and we look forward to seeing what everyone has been up to. Please check Showmyhomework and our social media platforms on Monday morning!

Yesterday's announcements from the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson would seem to suggest we will be looking at a phased return for students to schools. Please be assured that my team and I are working very hard to prepare for this and we are all desperate to return to normal as soon as safely possible. I am very much hoping that you and your family remain safe during these troubling times.

Yours sincerely



Francis Galbraith
Principal