

1st April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the official end of the spring term, I am writing with an update for you. Firstly, the staff are hugely grateful to all of you who have been in touch to thank them for all they are doing to keep students' education going and for the feedback on how the work is progressing. We are going to see what we can do further to improve this after Easter, as the time since students last had traditional lessons gets ever longer. The key message is that students and parents should not worry as all students nationally are in the same position.

I know that year eleven and thirteen students are particularly concerned about their grades this summer. We are expecting a further announcement before Easter and subsequent details early next term. I again give you my assurance that we will do everything we can to ensure that students' grades best reflect their performance. We will also mark their time with us properly when it is appropriate to do so.

For year twelve students and parents, your interim assessments are being emailed out today to keep you in touch with your current progress. If you have any immediate queries, please email us at the County Upper address below.

It is important that all students have a good rest during the next fortnight and I will contact you again on 20th April, the day before next term starts, with details of our plans to keep online education going until we can do otherwise.

We all recognise that this is a difficult time for young people. Advice suggests that establishing routines, physical exercise, talking to parents and carers and continuing to communicate with friends, albeit via electronic devices, are important. If students are feeling particularly anxious, they may find some of these sources of support helpful:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

www.kooth.com

<https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/>

In accordance with the advice to keep routines going, I attach a copy of the March edition of 'The Accolade' to recognise the successes we were still able to enjoy in a month where much was inevitably cancelled. There is also an important letter from the Chair of the Trust Board about plans for the new academic year.

If you need any support or advice during the Easter holiday or have any concerns about a child, the countyupper@burytrust.org account will be monitored throughout the holiday. In the meantime, I send you my very best wishes at this strange time and hope that you and your families stay well.

Yours sincerely,

Vicky Neale

Mrs V. Neale

Headteacher

