

21st April 2020

Dear parents/carers,

It seems strange welcoming you all back after the Easter break when effectively most of us are finding our way with this new way of working during these unprecedented times. I hope that you have all managed to have a break and it has been wonderful to see and learn of all the things the children have been doing. Notably many have written letters for our community as part of the 'Making a Difference' project in conjunction with BBC Radio Northampton. A huge thank you to our staff who have taken a lot of time to make vital PPE which has been delivered to local hospitals, I am aware that many of you have been supporting this vital work as well.

In terms of information for the forthcoming weeks I have included some updates below:

- The school will remain open for the children of critical workers, so that we can continue to support them to go to continue to carry out their vital work.
- Teaching staff will continue to post a planned and proportionate series of learning materials onto Go 4 Schools. I have included the home learning guidelines below and contact details should you have any questions, as well as the latest updates from the department of education.
- For Year 11 and Year 13, we are working to ensure every student receives a centre assessed grade for each of their GCSE/A Level qualifications. This will be a fair grade which reflects what we would have expected them to attain in the public examinations. The guidelines make it very clear that we cannot discuss these grades with children or parents. We anticipate these being published by the awarding bodies on the scheduled **A Level results day is Thursday 13th August GCSE results date Thursday August 20th**. We appreciate that this is unsettling for everyone and a source of anxiety. I would ask that students are reassured that we will be looking at all data carefully before submission.
- We will continue to issue a bulletin every Friday for the children by way of an update and to ensure that we are focussed clearly on their well-being during this time.
- Information regarding safeguarding and ensuring your child is safe and supported on line can be found on our website using the following link <https://www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk/parents/safeguarding/> alternatively you could follow link below to access support from the "think u know" website, <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

I would like to extend my thanks to you all for your support during this most testing of times.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Gabbi
Principal

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Home Learning and ICT / Online Access to Learning – DfE Guidance

The DfE has issued guidance via [Supporting your children's education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). The guidance provides parents with links to online resources, including to the Oak National Academy. This website will offer video lessons on a range of subjects. These resources have been created by 40 teachers from what the DfE describes as ‘some of the leading schools across England.’ It will provide 180 video lessons each week, across a broad range of subjects from mathematics to art to languages, for every year group from Reception through to Year 10. Today, the BBC will also launch an education package across TV and online, described as featuring ‘celebrities and some of the best teachers.’ Further information is available via <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-major-package-to-support-online-learning>.

Home Learning Guidelines

This is an unprecedented time, and learning is not as we would normally know it. As such, the below are guidelines for you as parents and carers to help you to navigate through how we are setting work and supporting you and your children during this time. The best and easiest port of call for any subject related questions will be your child’s teacher, or their head of department. For email addresses, use the initial and surname of the teacher, followed by @montsaye.northants.sch.uk. For example, kberry@montsaye.northants.sch.uk (please do feel free to contact Kirsty Berry using this address if your query can’t be/isn’t responded to by class teachers or heads of department).

Learning	What this means for you
All subjects will be setting weekly work via Go 4 Schools. This will be on a ‘weekly project’ format, whereby your child(ren) will be set a week’s worth of tasks for the week ahead.	Your child(ren) can follow the tasks at their own pace, and can either follow the suggested timetable that we shared when school closed, or make their own. We’ve tried to be flexible so that students can then fit their learning around family time/any shift patterns you might have/shared laptops and computer access for households where siblings are sharing. Please do keep on feeding back what is working and what is not, we are keen to support you and your family in the best ways possible. Staff are available to email during the normal school day, please do encourage your child to keep in contact if they need support.
Extra support with home learning	There are some national initiatives designed to support all schools and children at this time. The Oak National Academy launched this week and has 180 lessons per week for all year groups and subjects. Access it here https://www.thenational.academy/ The BBC are also offering daily lessons for English, maths and other core subjects, and can be accessed here: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bitesize-daily-schedules-teach/zdtwjhv

<p>Work for Year 10 and Year 12 – exam years</p>	<p>For additional support for these year groups in particular (and in some cases other year groups too), your child(ren) may be offered a range of extra activities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online lessons via Teams at a particular day or time - Use of the chat facility via Teams to be available for guidance/questions during scheduled lesson times - Availability of staff on hand during normal scheduled lesson times for help, support and feedback via email
<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Year 11 should be completing GCSE to A Level bridging work that has been provided by A Level subject teachers (this is on Go 4 Schools and has been emailed to all year 11 students).</p>
<p>Work completed from students</p>	<p>We absolutely encourage your child(ren) to upload their work to Teams, or to email it directly to teachers. Teams is the easiest platform for us to use, as it allows us to treat anything as a ‘working’ document that we can edit and comment on alongside your child, so that they get the most immediate and clear feedback possible.</p> <p>If a child has completed work on paper, then they can take a photo of it and send this as an attachment, or they can hand it in once we are back in school. There is no pressure to print out everything that is sent to you, or to complete everything on a computer – work done on paper is perfectly fine.</p> <p>Teachers will be giving feedback on the work that is submitted either via Teams or via email.</p>
<p>Curriculum</p>	<p>Please do be assured that we are planning hard so that students do not miss out on curriculum content that they would be currently learning. Maps for next year are being re-written and we are updating constantly to ensure any eventuality for re-opening is covered so that your children do not miss out on their full education. Subject leaders are mostly setting work that will help to strengthen, consolidate and revise content and skills already covered – completing this will really help to develop your child(ren)’s long term memory and their skills base, which in turn will increase confidence when we return. Each subject is different, however, a few are setting work that involves new content or preparation for further content, but please be reassured that this will also be revisited and taught to a high standard once we are back in school – students will not be left to struggle through critical curriculum content alone, and no aspects of GCSE or A Level work will be left as self-taught.</p>