



## Message from Head of School - Friday 17 April

### **“No matter what you’re going through, there’s a light at the end of the tunnel”**

I thought that I would take this opportunity to give you a quick update as to where we are and what will be the plans over the coming weeks as Monday is the start of the summer term. Following the announcement yesterday by the Government that lockdown has been extended; we will be continuing to support students with their learning at home. During the last two weeks, we have not set any additional home learning and asked that students used this time to catch up on work that they had not completed.

From Monday work will be set for all students using OneNote in Office 365. As I said in my previous letter, all we ask is that students attempt the work to the best of their ability and do not feel that they have to complete all the work especially if they have spent an allocated time trying to finish it. In addition, there is no expectation that students should be following the normal school timetabled day, this will work for some but not all, especially in households where ICT resources need to be shared. I am particularly looking forward to joining the Geography fieldwork lesson for Year 8, which will be looking at coastal erosion, which would have been part of their collapsed day activity before Easter.

From Monday 27 April, we will be asking all subjects to be setting work for the whole week so parents/carers and students have an opportunity to plan their own timetables so that they can complete the work at suitable times. This is something that can be discussed and agreed with your own children and interspersed with other activities such as reading for pleasure, cooking, gardening and exercise to name a few.

You can find access to online learning guides and other resources to support you and your child at this time on the school website <https://www.hamptongardens.org.uk/online-learning-and-support/>.

I would like to thank all the students who have engaged with this process so far and for the excellent work that they have been producing. We are tracking the work that is being completed and following up the few cases where students are not engaging. We will continue to do this over the coming weeks and will be asking staff to complete a grade card on a fortnightly basis to record this information, which will be shared with parents. In recent weeks there has been a lot of talk about staying ahead of the curve with regards battling CV19, this is equally true with students and their learning. If students do not complete/attempt the work set by members of staff, they are going to find that they will quickly fall behind and have to spend more time catching up when we eventually return to the normality of a traditional school day.

As you know, we have continued to keep the school open to support parents of key workers and vulnerable students. This service will be continuing to operate after the holidays, but from Tuesday 21 April we will be providing this service at Hampton College. We have taken this decision so that we can reduce the number of staff that need to make unnecessary journeys from their homes and to help support the NHS to keep people safe. As a result, the phones at Hampton Gardens will not be answered and voice messages will not be able to be retrieved. If you have a child accessing the provision during lockdown and you need to get in touch or leave a message, then please phone Hampton College on 01733 246820. For all other enquiries please can parents do this by emailing [enquiries@hamptongardens.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hamptongardens.org.uk) as this will continue to be monitored.



We know that during these difficult times many of our students have been finding ways to help keep themselves busy. We would like to hear about these and share with others. One such example is Dhruv in Year 9 who after the clapping for the NHS last night followed it up with a drumming session from his front drive. If you have not seen it please look at the clip on the school's Facebook page.

Needless to say, keep safe, stay at home, but please remember we are here to help if you need us.

**Mr A Greenwood**  
**Head of School**