

Our reference: KHD/AHH/SB*

17th April 2020

Dear Families,

Since the announcement that schools were to remain closed for the majority of students, you will be aware that we have arranged for students to access learning material remotely via Show My Homework from Monday 23rd March to Friday 3rd April. As we prepare for the start of the Summer Term, we would firstly like to thank you for your continued cooperation and for working with the school to support your child's education during these uncertain times. We would also like to thank those of you who were able to complete the survey regarding the remote learning programme. This feedback has been invaluable and has enabled us to plan for this next half term. We are aware that there may be some individual issues that need addressing and staff will be in contact to discuss this further next week.

The school understands that each family's circumstances and their access to learning material for their children differs but the general view is that the majority of subjects have set enough of work for students to manage from home whilst not feeling overwhelmed. We are aware that some families would have preferred remote lessons to be taught and we did consider this approach. However, we took the decision not to deliver such lessons so as not to disadvantage students that did not have access to the appropriate technology and because of potential safeguarding and data protection concerns. As you may be aware, over 500,000 Zoom accounts have been hacked, resulting in some serious safeguarding incidents (leading to nationwide ban on Zoom lessons in Singapore) and whilst we are currently looking at remote learning alternatives, we are not in a position to do this at the moment.

We will continue to set work following a timetable for Years 7 – 9 and work will also continue to be set for Year 10 and Year 12 whilst we wait for a further announcement about the plan for these year groups going forwards. We are also in the process of planning something for Year 11 and Year 13 to support them in preparing for their future studies.

These remote learning arrangements are in place to ensure that our students have access to education during the school's temporary closure. We are aware that the majority of students have been able to access the work set by their teachers and any issues with Show My Homework have been swiftly resolved once we were made aware of these. It has also come to our attention that a small minority of students have not been completing SMHW tasks adequately; it is important that they do so as we do not want them to struggle with lesson content when regular school activity resumes.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support while the school is temporarily closed. If, for any reason, you or your child experiences difficulties with the current remote learning arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or Head of Year to discuss any alternative

arrangements.

We know that this continues to be such an uncertain time and we remain committed to working through this together.

Wishing you and your families our best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

K. Heard

A. Hogarth

Mrs K Heard and
Headteacher

Mr A Hogarth
Deputy Headteacher