

15 May 2020

## Trinity Term: Learning and Teaching Update for after Exeat

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well and thank you for all you are doing to support your children's remote learning. Please do thank them on our behalf too for their resilience and ongoing ambition to study, which is a credit to them all.

Pupils in Years 7-10 and Year 12 will receive Learning Scores before Exeat that will give an indication of engagement with remote study and our pastoral teams will follow up with commendations and/or contact over any concerns accordingly. Please be reassured that concerns will be approached with compassion where they reflect genuine barriers of a technical or domestic nature.

As indicated in my letter of April 17, the College planned to reflect on and review our provision ahead of the second half of term, mindful of the fact that the environment around us continues to shift. This review is happening and includes both feedback we receive from stakeholders (including the children) and updated information recently published by the Government.

After Exeat, all pupils will retain access to pastoral support and the co-curricular programme as currently, and our academic provision will be maintained and adapted for the phase of term that would in another year have been characterised by Examinations Week, Adventure Week and the Festival. The information below sets out the principles and key decisions already made. It is our hope that further details and advice over practicalities will be provided in next week's update letter from the Headmaster, so that it is with you and your children before Exeat begins.

### **The Lower School (Years 7, 8, 9):**

It is now clear that pupils in these year groups will not return to the College site until September. This is regrettable but clarity allows us to make the following decisions:

- There will not be formal end of year Examinations Week for Years 7, 8, or 9 this term. Instead, our planning is focused on how we can end this term in a way that does allow pupils to showcase learning and feel a sense of achievement via remote work. We will also review the nature and timing of assessments for the Michaelmas Term carefully, which may include a summative assessment of this year's work at that time.
- The 5 weeks of this term after Exeat will be split in purpose as follows, without changing the current timetable structure:

- The first 3 weeks will be used to consolidate learning undertaken across the lockdown period, complete courses where necessary, undertake open-book tests to check understanding from home (as guided by teachers), and to set up clear revision or consolidation steers and advice for the summer.
- The last 2 weeks will be used to support pupils to undertake research projects they choose from menus generated by staff. These projects will be imaginative, cross discipline, and will provide an opportunity for pupils to 'deep dive' into areas of personal interest. For the pupils to be able to end the year on an 'up' with a real sense of personal achievement via these projects is important to us, as we know it will be to them.
- Year 9 pupils, after Exeat, will remain in the lessons only of the ten subjects they are taking for GCSE in Year 10. The new non-contact time created where they no longer attend subject lessons they are dropping will be used to consolidate and extend understanding of the subjects they are carrying on, under the guidance of their teachers.
- Specific information and guidance regarding summer revision or consolidation will be provided by Heads of Department and Heads of Section as part of this provision and before the end of the academic year in July.

### **Years 10 and 12:**

Government guidance is regularly changing for these year groups, but currently indicates an intention to encourage these pupils to access the school in some way after Exeat, so long as this is on an individual or small group basis, and not for whole class teaching. We are encouraged by this, but it presents considerable practical challenges that we are now working through, and we do not want to rush to a new system that actually detracts from the success of the whole class remote learning that is currently happening at this College. Ahead of a more detailed communication at the end of next week, and in a spirit of maximum transparency, our current thinking is as follows:-

- Year 10 and 12 will not return to College immediately from 1 June and it will likely be at least two weeks into next half term before on-site contact will begin in some form, as yet to be determined.
- There will not be a formal end of year examinations week for either Year 10 or 12 this term. Instead, we are considering models that might include a formal assessment point at the end of the summer holiday, in August, and the potential for some targeted assessments before July where they will be constructive and practical at this stage.
- For Year 10, this is particularly relevant in the Sciences, for example, where we would want to begin the Autumn term with pupils knowing whether they are completing a Double Award or Triple Award GCSE Science programme in Year 11.

- For Year 12, this is particularly relevant given the relationship between robust assessment of Year 12 learning and UCAS predictions made in the Michaelmas Term of Year 13.
- If permission for site access for Years 10 and 12 is not rescinded by another Government announcement, their programme will begin from the middle of June and is likely to have an emphasis on accessing pastoral support, and 1-2-1 or small group academic support in addition to, and not undermining, their current and effective remote teaching and learning, which we know is working well.
- More specific information and guidance regarding the above will be provided at the end of next week, once the College has completed the complex process of triangulating our responsibilities and ambitions academically, pastorally, practically, medically, and legally for these two year groups, alongside the others. It is also highly likely that government guidance will have evolved by this point.

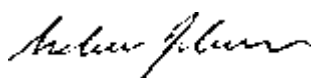
### **Year 11:**

Our review of the term's teaching and learning thus far indicates that the Year 11 Pre-A Level bridging and enrichment courses are proving to be of benefit and value to the pupils who have engaged wholeheartedly with them. Teacher reports on pupil engagement will be generated at the end of these courses, and we have decided to extend them and the opportunities they provide for a further three weeks after Exeat, meaning they will now continue until Friday 19 June. This gives us all the opportunity to even better prepare Year 11 for transition into Sixth Form, and keep them constructively busy. It will also enable us to invite pupils joining the College in September from other schools to participate, ensuring they do not begin next year behind those rising into Year 12 from Year 11 within the College.

### **Conclusion:**

My thanks once again for your and your children's support, engagement, and patience, with remote learning and teaching. It is greatly appreciated by all our staff who remain fully committed to providing the best education possible in tune with the College's values and throughout these ever shifting and complex circumstances.

Kind regards



Mr A Johnson  
**Deputy Head Academic**