

**Headmaster: Mr Alan Whelpdale BA, PGCE, NPQH**

27 March 2020

Dear Parents

I hope that all your daughters throughout the School are engaging well with the lessons and activities set by staff this week, and that they are also benefiting from the pastoral support from their Heads of Year and the encouragement and support of all their teachers.

We are working with a minimum number of staff in School in accordance with Government directives, and I am very grateful to those who generously have volunteered their support for children of key workers both this week and during the Easter holiday. I was very moved this morning to listen on the radio to a doctor 'on the front line' in a London hospital, and we are very appreciative of the selfless efforts of our NHS workers and of others in key roles.

May I point out that our teachers are not distance-learning specialists, and much of the joy of education lies in the lively interaction of the classroom, and in the caring relationships between staff and pupils, and between the pupils themselves. I hope our students are happily occupied and stimulated by the work set, as I am very aware of the amount of time staff are spending on preparation and assessment, learning new techniques and embracing unfamiliar strategies.

As you know, school closure was enforced on us by central Government, and, therefore, please bear with us as we review and refine how we engage with pupils online. This closure is likely to be extended, and my staff will be embarking on further training during the Easter holidays to ensure that they can work more creatively and provide pupils with a variety of educational experiences and feedback during the Summer term.

Our pastoral staff are also doing their best to support individuals, as well as parents should you need further support with your daughters. Many of us throughout the nation currently are working under considerable pressure, and I must be mindful of the needs and health of my staff and their families; please, therefore, do not expect responses to e-mails after 6pm in the evening, or at weekends.

I have asked my staff to continue to set work for their students during week one and week three of the Easter holidays. I'm sure you will agree that the staff need some respite and time with their own families, and, therefore, we will not be setting or marking work during the week beginning Monday 6 April 2020.

I continue to be proud of both our students and staff, who are working diligently under extremely uncertain times.

With every good wish,



**Alan Whelpdale**  
Headmaster

[Rated 'Excellent' in the most recent ISI Inspection](#)

