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22 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer of Year 7, 8 & 9 Students

I hope that you and your families are all well.

Recent government announcements indicate that it is unlikely Key Stage 3 students across the country will return to school before September. As students will therefore be working from home for an extended period of time I am writing to update you on our evolving home learning provision. This can be read in conjunction with yesterday's [DfE guidance](#) for secondary schools.

We have been working with our Heads of Teaching and Learning to investigate ways in which we can enable students to check their understanding and be able to access feedback on their work. To this end subjects will be carrying out learning reviews during the summer term, as a result of which students will be able to access online feedback. Feedback plays a key role in learning; it will provide students with a greater sense of purpose for their work and also enable teachers to reward their efforts. Staff will begin to award Achievement Points after half term.

Lessons continue to be planned and set in line with existing curriculum requirements so we are confident that work set is relevant and that students are not missing any key topics. Students are able to email their teachers about any aspect of their work and if you are concerned about your child's progress, please contact the relevant pastoral team by email in the first instance. This link refers to the [FAQ document](#) previously released giving advice about how parents/carers can support learning at home.

We have been sent the following [link](#) which details local support for mindfulness and wellbeing.

I would like to thank everyone for their support with Home Learning and the positive messages you have been sending into the school about the lessons your children are being set. We recognise that they cannot replace normal lessons which include teacher explanations of tasks and ideas and those all-important classroom interactions. In light of this we have been exploring ways of further developing our home learning provision and we will be leading training sessions to facilitate this after half term.

We will be designing and sending out a second parental survey to ascertain your views on home learning provision at Downlands and also a student survey where we hope to get an idea of the home learning activities students most value. We will provide feedback to you once we have received and analysed the information from the surveys.

Year 9 Option letters will be sent out after half term confirming option choices.

In the meantime, please take care and I hope that you and your family can enjoy some time together over half term.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Wignall
Headteacher

