



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well and coping in these very testing times.

I wanted to just keep in touch with you and share some reminders as well as bring you up-to-date with what we're doing in relation to school issues.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is up and running for all subjects and year groups. Subject teachers have been asked to monitor levels of student participation between now and Easter. We have already found that some of our very conscientious students are spending more time on school work than they do in a typical school week! And of course the converse is true too – some students think the Easter holidays have come early. It would be good if you would have a chat to your child just to assure them that a steady pace is best. Parents, teachers and students are all in this for the first time and we're all trying to find our feet in these new ways of working. We're fast learning that setting work online for a couple of snow closure days is a different ball game to planning for long term absence from the classroom. Teachers will keep in touch with their students and will make adjustments as they go along.

Some of you have more than one child at Mountbatten and maybe don't have enough computers to go round. If that's the case, contact Mr Davenport via his email: rob.davenport@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk and he will try to help out by lending you a Chromebook.

Options

We are working through the process of ensuring as many students as possible are able to study their first choice subjects. Either Mr Martin or Mr Dunn will make contact with you if necessary.

Work Experience

I know you'll understand why we're having to cancel this year's work experience programme, but it's still a big disappointment for our young people who were looking forward to getting a taste of the world of work. The only consolation I can offer is that they'll be working long enough when the time comes! Mrs Shakya, Head of Careers, has spent so many hours supporting the whole process and is understandably disappointed too.

Year 11

Unsurprisingly, large numbers of Year 11 students are experiencing a sudden rush of newfound enthusiasm for re-working and improving their coursework! Because of the new lockdown arrangements, coursework cannot be brought into school. The good news is that students can photograph their much-improved work and send it to their subject teachers (and hope for a fab grade); please make sure they meet the deadline of Friday 3 April 2020.

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This brings me nicely on to GCSE grades.

Government has advised that schools will calculate grades and, in doing so, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence including non-exam assessments and mock results. We are told that the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges. We are awaiting further information and instruction on how the process will work. I'll contact you when I know more.

Free School Meals Pre-paid Cards

The cards are in the post. Anyone who is eligible to receive this assistance has received a letter from Mr Davenport complete with instructions on how to top-up the cards.

And finally ...

We have been providing care for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children, not only for our Mountbatten children, but also for our linked primary schools. Personal Best coaches and school staff are involved in this work. They're trying to strike a balance of providing study facilities as well as fun activities. It's difficult to design a programme for mixed age groups but the main thing is that key workers can go about their duties without worrying about day care for their children.

Mountbatten is also 'doing its bit' in other ways too. In response to a plea from a surgery in Romsey, we have supplied 42 pairs of chemistry safety goggles to give doctors and nurses some protection when seeing their patients. We have a good number of medical professionals in our parent body. Are there ways we could support you? Please contact us via info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk and let us know how we can help.

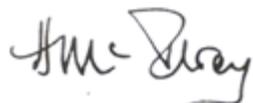
And here's a way our children can do their bit - Edwina Mountbatten House, which cares for the elderly, is closed to visitors because of Covid-19. Over the years, many residents have enjoyed interaction with our students, and now we have been asked to encourage our children to write some uplifting notes and letters to the current residents who will be missing seeing their children and grandchildren. I know that many of our young people will want to help and so when they have penned their letters, they should post them to:

Edwina Mountbatten House, Broadwater Road, Romsey, SO51 8GH.

We keep hearing that we are in 'unprecedented times'. Be that as it may, we remain your school - one community of parents, staff and children who must now all do our bit to prevent the spread of this dreadful disease. Stay at home if at all possible, remember to remain two metres apart from anyone you encounter whilst taking outdoor exercise and keep on washing your hands.

I'll be in touch with more updates next week.

With all good wishes,



Heather McIlroy
Executive Headteacher