



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

HMC/SWS

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Students

Thank you once again for your good wishes and encouragement. I have not been able to respond personally to all your emails, however, they have been hugely appreciated.

I have several issues to discuss with you and will use sub-headings to help plan my thoughts and help you process the information.

School Work

We want students to continue studying as much as possible. It is important that they retain good routines. It is vital that students do not adopt the habits of the summer holidays! We suggest students have an alarm as usual, get up, have breakfast, get showered and have a schedule of work which you monitor if you are at home with them. Teachers will also be monitoring work and contacting you if work is not completed.

Teachers will be setting work through Google Classroom. We have developed a page where parents can see an overview of the work being set. This covers core subjects and others will be added shortly:

<https://sites.google.com/themountbattenschool.org/isolation-work/home>.

Staff will be setting work for Year 11. Clearly, this will not be examined but much of it will be useful for Sixth Form. I am going to ask Sixth Forms and Colleges to provide more information on their own websites about what work and reading might be best preparation for post-16 studies.

GCSE Examinations and BTECs

Parents and students know as much as we do! We have been told that all national examinations including GCSEs are cancelled but that students will get the recognition they deserve. This suggests that schools will be asked to provide suggested grades based on mocks, coursework, prior attainment data, and our knowledge of the work ethic of each student.

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When I know more, I will share this with Year 11 students. We will want to celebrate the achievements of the year group and, as I have already indicated, the Prom, the August Results Day and the Certificate Presentation Evening will all be going ahead, subject to everything returning to normal. When I know more, I will share our plans with you.

Arrangements for the Supervision of Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Children

The school has support in place for children of key workers and vulnerable children. Parents who have requested access to these arrangements will be contacted separately. Mr Davenport is co-ordinating this programme and can be contacted directly at rob.davenport@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk. However, it is important for all parents to note the key principles which support the national effort to reduce transmission:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.*
- 2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.*
- 3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.*
- 4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.*

Bus arrangements

Please note that the bus companies will try to maintain a beginning and end of day service for the small number of students who continue to come into school. However, routes and times are liable to change and you should inform us if you wish to use these services. Please email Mrs Connors scs@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk and also check with the bus company about times and routes.

Catering

We will maintain a catering service to meet basic needs if we possibly can throughout the closure period.

Support for Mental Health and Well-being

Youth In Romsey is closed, however you can still access support either by:

- Text 07443508418
- Facebook
- Instagram @yiryouth
- www.yir.org.uk

In order to support everyone's mental health and wellbeing, you can access helpful guidance from the Mental Health Foundation via this link:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

There is useful guidance on how to talk to your child about the outbreak on the school parent portal.

Safeguarding and Prevent: Should you be worried about yourself or any other student please contact either Mrs Lovell (lll@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk) or Mrs Fisher (cfr@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk)

General Enquiries

If you have a general enquiry, please use info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk

The school phone line (01794 502502) will be open between 09:00 and 16:00 Monday to Friday.

Final Thoughts

There will only be a few staff in school (at least for the initial period) so that those who have not yet had the opportunity to distance themselves from colleagues and students, can now self-isolate and help reduce transmission opportunities.

I would again like to thank everybody in our community for their support. All my colleagues in school – teachers, support staff and governors - have responded magnificently; so too have you and our children.

It's difficult to know how to end this letter. Usually I would be wishing you a happy holiday, instead I am wishing you health and fortitude. When we next meet, we shall all be a little different, because seismic events create permanent change. If that difference is characterised by compassion and selflessness, then we shall all emerge better people for it.

With all good wishes,

Heather McIlroy
Executive Headteacher