

HONITON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Principal: Mr Glenn Smith BSc (Hons)



"Success for All"

19 March 2020

Good afternoon

Thank you for the many kind words of support we have received today and in recent days – it is a source of motivation.

Answering the big question "So, what are we expected to do now?" I think we should view the coming weeks and months in three phases:

- Phase 1

First, we need to get ourselves to Easter. The idea here is to provide some semblance of education for key groups of pupils; though some of these definitions are a bit fuzzy at the moment and we await further guidance from the government.

The government is updating its definition of key workers. These are people who – in these unprecedented times – are needed on the frontline. So, of course that means those of you working in the NHS, in care homes, in the police and fire service – and teachers (we assume...). But it will also include you if you are involved in retail delivery and those suddenly manufacturing equipment such as ventilators. I think we'll get a tighter definition pretty soon and I aim to provide clarity on this tomorrow, whereupon we will be issuing a survey to you so that we know who we will be catering for in college. Obviously, our aim is to try to help keep the community at least partially open and do our bit in these challenging times.

We will also be providing for our 'Vulnerable' children and await DfE guidance on this too, before the weekend.

As you know, we are organising work for stay at home students (the majority of our school community). Details have been sent already and the system will go live this weekend on our website. Basically, our aim was to make the work set purposeful and achievable for our students. It is being planned in two-week cycles. Currently, we are requesting that Y11 and 13 students continue to work as we have not received a decision on whether or not they could have exams in September. We have explained to them today the need to continue to work and prepare until clarity is given.

- Phase 2

There is talk of trying to keep provision going for some young people over Easter. This is wholly uncharted territory but we will endeavour to achieve the government's aim for this period. I have been humbled by those colleagues who have already offered their services.

- Phase 3

Beyond Easter, until there is more information or perhaps a directive, we will be maintaining the two-week cycle of work. However, the idea will be to build a more joined-up form of provision, with collaboration across schools and colleges perhaps (or even a 'package' from the DfE), strategically deploying teachers, teaching assistants and other staff with a programme of learning that we've had more time to plan. If that



sounds vague, it's because it is. My guess is that local headteacher groups will try to work together to create a sustainable service for children and young people as we already regularly share best practice, resources and data – maybe, we might get direction from the LA or the Dfe, but my intuition/experience says that we will be left to sort this also.

Support for wellbeing

In the event of a school closure, we want to signpost to both parents and students support services that may be able to help if you have safeguarding or well-being concerns. The following links can also be found on our website:

- Samaritans - 116 123 www.samaritans.org
- NSPCC - 0808 800 5000 www.NSPCC.org.uk
- Childline - 08001111 www.childline.org.uk
- Kooth - www.kooth.com
- Shout - text SHOUT 85258

We understand that Honiton will have an advice line offering support and signposting to help too and we'll share details of this when it is up and running.

Confirmation of Sixth Form Places

Confirmation of offers and courses will be made available to all Year 11 students who have applied to Sixth Form within the next few weeks. With the very recent developments with the Coronavirus and the summer examinations we want to ensure you have the correct information and clear guidance for your son / daughter before these letters get sent to the students. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Selena Burroughs – Director of Sixth Form at the College on SBurroughs@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk . Thank you for your continued support.

It's in our DNA to go all out and do the best job possible. This is an unprecedented challenge for our college and for that matter every school in the county/country, but we will endeavour to deliver on our mission statement: 'success for all'.

Best wishes,



Glenn

