



Teesdale School & Sixth Form

Teesdale School and Sixth Form
Prospect Place
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8HH

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Dear Parent / Carer

As you are aware, the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education made the decision to close the school to the majority of our students. We will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. This is a difficult time for us all but we want, as far as possible, to protect the education of our children.

It is a particularly worrying time for our Year 11 students now that their GCSE exams have been cancelled. I appreciate this is a cause of huge uncertainty and I will write to you in due course to communicate the national plans concerning your son/daughter's qualifications.

Many of our students are planning to move into post-16 education with a number of them staying on with us into the Sixth Form. These plans should not be impacted by the current situation. In the coming weeks we will communicate with parents and students a number of ways that Year 11 students can continue to learn and engage with the subjects they may be interested in studying post-16.

We will be setting work for students to complete via POD. Your son/daughter has received a letter with their password and instructions on how to log into POD. They have all been given a tutorial on how to log in and find the work they need to complete. We will also be directing students to a range of on-line resources such as Seneca Learning, Educake and Hegarty Maths.

For students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, we are also providing a blank exercise book for each student, to ensure they can complete work as neatly as they would in school.

Students - what you should do:

- It is really important for your future to keep working hard and follow the school routine as far as you can.
- Log on to your school email at least twice a day, at 08:50am and 12:55pm, to check for messages from teachers and make sure you understand what work you need to complete. You can do this by clicking the 'Office 365' link, accessed at the top of our webpage www.teesdaleschool.co.uk. Student POD is also available via Share Point on the same office page.
- Follow your normal timetable as much as possible.
- Complete all work to the best of your ability and as neatly as possible. Use the exercise book provided where appropriate.
- Some staff will also be using classcharts.

IT / online learning help:

- We have shown you how to log on and given you a letter with your log in details and instructions on how to log into POD.
- If you have any IT queries, you can email ict.support@teesdaleschool.co.uk and someone will aim to respond to you as quickly as possible. The email must be sent from your school email account in order for it to be recognised to enable the helpdesk to respond.

Parents / carers – what you can do:

- You can support your son/daughter by encouraging them to follow the school timetable. This will provide structure and a familiar routine.

Pastoral Support

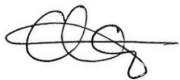
- If at any point you need advice/guidance on pastoral issues or safeguarding concerns, please email student.support@teesdaleschool.co.uk. This email will be checked regularly and support will be provided as required.
- If you have a safeguarding concern of an immediate nature, please call First Contact on 03000 267979 or the Police on 101.

Although we may have to be physically distant for some time, we can take solace from the strong sense of community that will enable us to stay connected in other ways. Your son/daughter will continue to be supported by us in the times ahead.

If you have any other concerns or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

On behalf of the school, I wish you, your family and friends well.

Yours faithfully



Ms C Ellis
Head of School