

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you and your families are remaining safe, fit and well during this time of national lock down.

Last Friday, I gave a final assembly to the school informing the students of how things would work while they were being educated from home. This is what I asked of them: get up for home school at the same time every day, follow their usual school timetable starting at 9:00am, log on to their computers to receive their communication from their teachers, complete their work to the best of their ability either on their computers or in the exercise book that has been issued to them, read often and exercise for at least twenty minutes every day. I also advised that this is a time where they may want to learn a new skill or develop a new interest or hobby.

We are coming to the end of our first week and the feedback has been very positive. Our team of staff are doing a sterling job of keeping in touch with all students, supporting them in every way possible. We have seen the delivery of lessons change over the course of this week where more teachers are using Microsoft Teams to run their virtual lessons and this is something that will continue to develop over time.

It is still, of course, early days and we are not yet clear on when schools will re-open but I want to reassure you that we will be doing our utmost to continue to support your children during these extraordinary times. I have asked staff to send information about what activities students have been completing and I would like to encourage you to do the same. If your child has tried something new, even if that is completing the homework or cooking a meal, send us photos or an email as we would like to keep a log of 'Grove School in Action' as it will be something for us all to refer back to in years to come.

We will be continuing with the weekly parent bulletin until schools re-open in order to keep you informed of how things are progressing. We are your community school and take great pride in supporting our families through the challenges that lie ahead. Together we are much stronger and the last week has shown how much can be achieved when we all pull together for a common purpose. Our motto at The Grove School is 'A Mind Set to Succeed' and that is exactly the stance that we are taking through this national crisis.

Stay safe, please observe the national lock down guidance and that way we will conquer the virus and schools will be re-opened.

Very best wishes and stay safe.

Mrs Sonia Taylor
Headteacher



NOTICES

National online safety

The organisation, National Online Safety have published free online safety guides for parents and children. Remote learning is a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in these difficult circumstances. However, there are factors that need to be taken into consideration. The below guides will help you get the most out of the remote learning experience. Please click the following to view: [online tips for students](#) and [online tips for parent](#)

Keeping calm during difficulty

Feeling a certain amount of concern or worry is natural when we encounter difficult or unsettling times. [Click here](#) to view a video demonstrating an introduction to mindfulness. It explains how mindfulness can help rewire the brain to work in calmer and more positive ways. You can also listen to this guided [audio clip](#) alongside it, and take a look at this mindfulness [PDF](#) as supplementary resources.

Free school meals scam

The Department for Education have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'. This is a scam email – it is not from a local authority. Please do not respond to it, and delete immediately. Read the government guidance [here](#), which explains what schools should do to make sure eligible students have continued access to free school meals.

Online safety

As many of you are using the internet and online resources for home schooling, we wanted to share this website with you, [click here](#). Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

GCSE and A Level – what we know now

As soon as we are able to share more and accurate information, we will do so.

- Regulators will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with us and the other exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students.
- Exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.
 - To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. Clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges soon.
 - Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- Regulators and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising the approach, to ensure that it's as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible.
 - The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
 - These grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.
- The exam boards will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students aren't disadvantaged.
 - Students will be able to appeal their grades if they don't believe the right process has been followed.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer.

CAREERS

Mrs Murphy, our Trust Careers Adviser as will Mrs Beath, will be available for remote career guidance during the school closure should your child have any career or work experience related questions or concerns. They can be contacted via email: murphy.m@mmat.co.uk or gail.beath@groveschool.net



USEFUL CONTACTS

Shropshire Public Health Nursing Service	0333 358 3654
Compass	0345 678 9021
Early Help	https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/
Parenting Team	01743 250950
SEND Local Offer	https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/

FACEBOOK

Please follow us on Facebook [@GroveSchoolShropshire](#) for supplementary home learning ideas, news and feel good stories. We also encourage you to share your ideas and interact with our posts! For news from across the Trust, why not also follow [@MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

WEBSITE QUICK LINKS

Please click on the following useful links to find out more.

- [News.](#)
- [Home Learning](#)
- [Term Dates.](#)



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