

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope that you and your families remain well and are staying safe. I hope that you were able to enjoy the Easter break as best you could with members of your household. I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you about expectations for supporting your son/daughter but also to explain our plans as we move into what some are calling phase 2 of lockdown. Firstly, I know some parents are finding it very difficult to "home school". I want to reassure you that you are firstly parents and not teachers (unless you are). It is important to try and provide structure to your child's day but do not feel you need to provide a set timetable. As long as the day includes some work which has been provided on-line, a session of fitness and/or being outside for health and wellbeing and some reading for pleasure however short this will really help them.

I want to update you on what has been happening at school. We have been making masks for Bassetlaw hospital, GP surgeries, and care homes. In addition we have delivered aprons, gloves and washbags to these providers. I would like to say a huge thank all the staff who have been involved with these projects. It has been wonderful to be able to support our fabulous staff in the NHS and care sectors in any way we can. I would also like to thank parents for the response we have had for a new laser cutter as ours is old and has been intermittently breaking down and restricting the amount of masks we can produce.

I mentioned phase 2 of lockdown. This means we are now looking even more strategically at the work which is being set. It will include consolidating existing material and also introducing new concepts, but staff will choose concepts, considered more straightforward so students can grasp them easily. Teaching Staff and Heads of House will follow up where students are not responding to work being set so that they are not getting behind.

I am particularly concerned about families who may not have access to technology and we are looking at methods to support them through are FSM deliveries which will include study support (i.e. bringing hard copies of work and then collecting it to be marked and providing specific feedback). In addition, our SEND students will have weekly/daily communication with a member of learning support staff to help them organise their work for the week and to support them with this work and provide them with feedback.

Year 11 work will now focus on consolidating and extending their functional Maths and English skills as well as providing transition material for their sixth form or college studies. Year 10 are at a critical point in their GCSE studies, so staff will be setting targeted work to support students' progress as well as continuing to deliver the course content teachers will also be setting and marking assessments so they can provide specific feedback.

In addition, particular staff will be trialling 'live' lessons over the coming weeks to ensure students can have face-to-face contact with their teacher in order to be taught new concepts or Q&A existing work. This will not be in every subject with every teacher initially, although we are working towards covering all subjects in due course. All staff and students will need to agree a code of conduct prior to the lesson in order to access it (following our Safeguarding Policy).

Phase 3 will be the gradual further re opening of the school. We are already planning for this and will send you further information once we have received instruction and guidance from the DfE.

Mrs C Horrocks
Principal

Year 11 Interviews, Applications & KS5 Preparation Tasks

The Senior Leadership Team are currently telephoning the whole of Year 11 as part of our wellbeing drive and talking to them about how they are doing and their future plans. As part of the conversation, we are encouraging all of Year 11 to complete a number of English and Maths Functional Skills Tasks and those that are choosing the Sixth Form as their next step, to complete the A Level Preparation Tasks in their chosen subjects.

If your child is yet to decide what their plans are please encourage them to take a look at the Sixth Form options we have on offer to see whether this is something that may suit and be of interest. Even though the official deadline has past we would be happy to accept applications from students for the forthcoming year. If you have

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specific questions regarding the Sixth Form please email Assistant Principal Lee Dainty dainty1@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk

Further info from Ofqual on Examinations

On 15th April, Ofqual released a consultation document to teachers, students, parents and carers on the proposals for awarding grades for GCSEs and A Levels in 2020. The consultation is open until 29th April and can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020>

Ofqual encourages everyone with an interest to read the proposals and is seeking views on the following:

- Whether students entered for exams in Year 10 or below should receive a calculated grade this summer (this does not directly affect The Elizabethan Academy as students currently complete all their courses in Year 11)
- The impact of proposals on private candidates
- Standardising centre assessment grades
- Appealing calculated grades
- The autumn exam series
- Putting in place the regulatory requirements

Supporting our Local Key Workers



Our staff have been working very hard to make and supply face masks, wash bags and Comfort Hearts to local healthcare providers, including a local paramedic; Fairfield View, Clumber Court; St Saviours: West Villa and Retford Hospice;



We are currently producing almost 400 face visors per week in addition to wash bags for NHS, Care home staff, GP surgeries and hospices. We have been overwhelmed by the demand. We have prioritised Bassetlaw but demand for this PPE equipment is coming in from Yorkshire and Derbyshire as well.

We have had several business organisations keen to offer their help and support, for example Shaun Simpson the owner of Onesite-Laser in Harworth, has helped with keeping our current laser cutter going (despite it being over 10 years old) and has supported with materials.

Even more pivotal, is the fabulous news we received yesterday that EDF energy have purchased a new laser cutter for us with donations from Cottam West Burton A and West Burton B Power stations. This cutter will enable us to produce between 300-400 face visors per day (depending upon demand). I would like to say a huge thank you to Andy Powell from EDF Energy. I and my staff were really emotional yesterday when we received this news. We are so keen to support our wonderful frontline staff in any way we can and this will have a huge impact. This virus although devastating has brought out the very best in people and humanity for me. I feel incredibly privileged to have been a small part of this and am so proud and humbled by the response of my staff, students and their families and the support from local businesses like EDF Energy.

Mrs C Horrocks

SEND

The SEND team have been contacting parents this week ready to start with remote group sessions next week. They will be run in small year group settings with two members on the Learning Support team in the group and will give the students an opportunity to see key staff, their friends and peers and to also get support with the learning that they are engaged in. The team will be able to go over work that has been set by their teachers and help clarify any issues and problems. If further guidance is required, then the staff will liaise with the subject teachers to get more support for your children. This is obviously a new way of working for all of us, but we are excited about the opportunity to see our students again.

The remote platform that we will be using is Microsoft Teams, which can be accessed either through one of the tiles on the school website, or you can download as an App. Phones support this adequately so larger technical equipment isn't needed. Your child will have had an email with a link, asking them to sign an online learning agreement which will need doing prior to, or at the start of the first session – could you please go through this with them beforehand.

Year 10 and Year 12 Students

We are very pleased to announce that we are going to be doing some work with Eton College. As part of our support for students working from home, we have access to a training package delivered through Eton College. The training is an on-line course and it takes between 7 to 10 hours to complete and is open to students from Monday 20th April 2020 until 31st July 2020 and it is completely free.

Year 10 will be completing a module called Making an Impact

Year 12 will be completing a module called Research Skills.

Mr Mason will be sending out details of how to register with Eton College next week to your individual email accounts. I am sure that you will all agree that this is a fantastic opportunity to work with another school and for students to develop life skills that will benefit them in the future.

Safeguarding

We have received some important information from the local police to flag with parents/carers during this home-schooling period, in light of our young people spending more time on the internet. The first link offers information and support on the issue of online radicalisation, including recognising possible signs, what you can do and who and where to go to with any concerns

<https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/ltai-parent-guardian-online-radicalisation-information-and-support.pdf>

The second link highlights the work of Crimestoppers, who will be focussing their attention on a different type of crime every 2 weeks. This week, in a bid to make our streets safer, they are raising awareness around doorstep crime, particularly around scams which trade off public fears on Covid-19.

Con-artists and scammers are exploiting the pandemic by taking advantage of the uncertainty to prey on people's fears, especially the vulnerable. Examples of offline scams include:

- Individuals helping with shopping or collecting medication - Fraudsters offering to help by shopping for those who are housebound, but then stealing the money
- Fake Coronavirus testing kit - People claiming to be from the NHS promoting a door-to-door initiative to test individuals for the Coronavirus/Covid-19
- Gangs offering to 'disinfect' driveways, garages or cars then charging massively over the odds
- Fake or overpriced items to protect yourself such as selling fake sanitizers or face masks
- Fake charity collectors who take a donation and then pocket the cash
- Imitating police officers to give on-the-spot fines

The website details how the public can help the police keep our streets and communities safer by raising awareness and sharing information <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Remember to email safeguarding@elizabethan.notts.sch.uk if you are concerned about your child's safety and/or wellbeing. Please remind your child to log into their school email account daily to stay up to date with news, activities and information from staff - the second Student Briefing was sent by Heads of House earlier this week which is similar to our weekly Pastoral Briefing which they are used to.

Hardship

Any families experiencing difficulties to let us know as we are investigating setting up foodbank/meals at the school.

Nottinghamshire School Games

Please see attached flyer.

Covid-19

Please ensure you are following government and public health advice on social distancing

- **Guidance on Staying at Home:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>
- **Guidance on Social Distancing:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>
- **Guidance on Vulnerable Children and Young People:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>
- **Guidance on Isolation for Residential Education Settings:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings>
- **Guidance for Schools about Temporarily Closing:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>
- **Q&A for Parents and Carers (updated):** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>
- **Cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020 Q&A:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>
- **Free School Meals Guidance (updated):** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>