



Malton School

A Specialist Science School

SUPPORT INSPIRE THRIVE

13th May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Coronavirus Response Update

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday and the publication of detailed materials by the Department of Education on Monday night, we have some further clarity around the government's plans to bring the country back from lockdown and what that might mean for schools. Equally we should note, as the Prime Minister stressed, this process is conditional on the various indicators demonstrating that the spread of coronavirus is kept on a downward trajectory. This requires us to plan for a number of options whilst maintaining flexibility so that we can respond as appropriate.

The best message for your child/ren at the moment is that they must continue to take our remote learning seriously and try hard to keep working within the "normal" routine of the school day, Monday to Friday, as this is not going to end quickly for them.

The Prime Minister hinted at the desire to get Year 10 and Year 12 students back into schools before the end of term, to have some face to face contact with their teachers before going off for the summer break. The Department of Education has clarified that they expect some provision for these students to start from 1st June to enhance their remote learning. They have made it clear that this will not be a full return to school, acknowledging that the delivery of normal lessons in classrooms will not be possible. By implication, our students in Years 7 to 9 are unlikely to return to school at all before September.

Some of you have children in the current Year 6 who are coming up to join us in September. We are working on transition materials that we can share with you remotely and we will consider, with our primary colleagues, what the announcement about Year 6 students returning to school in June will mean in terms of any possible physical induction visits to Malton and how we might be able to best manage that.

You will understand that this is a very difficult situation for the school to manage. Our first priority is to keep all students and staff safe whilst then making the best provision we possibly can for their education. Getting the balance of this right is going to take some detailed planning over the next week, so I would ask for your understanding in allowing us some time to consider all aspects before coming back out to you with a plan. This will probably be at the end of next week.

Action: If you have a child in Year 10 or Year 12 and have a strong view about whether you want them to come into school next half-term or not, and if so how often, I would appreciate it if you

could let me know via email by Monday – rjw@maltonschool.org . This isn't exactly a survey or questionnaire but I do value hearing your thoughts and opinions and this is a situation where I can gather some views prior to making detailed decisions about the next steps. I can't promise to deliver everything that you personally want, not least because the only certainty is that there will be a divergence of opinion. But it will give me a sense of the mood among our community and that is an important consideration in our planning.

For your information, I have enclosed here the link to the two documents that were published by the Department of Education last night for parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

I would only add, as I mentioned in my previous letter, that we have established a much stronger and more effective programme of remote learning at Malton for all year groups than has been the case in most secondary schools up and down the country. The government is keen to get Year 10 and Year 12 students back in the building because in many schools they have not been following their ongoing curriculum. The risk to us is therefore slightly different. In making some adjusted provision for some students to come back into school we may damage the quality of the remote learning we have in place. I am keen to make sure that we find a way through that delivers the best for all students.

Week 4: Inspire Challenge Winners – Best Ideas to Celebrate VE Day in Lockdown

Our fourth challenge certainly got some of our young people thinking about the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the meaning behind it. I have no doubt that if we had not been in lockdown this would have been a major event across the country. As an historian I felt on safer ground judging this challenge, especially after the musical entries last week! I was pleased to see a range, from some that focused on remembrance and the meaning behind it, some that were based on research into the 1940's as an era, and some that took up the challenge of how a family in lockdown could engage in a range of activities to commemorate the event. The different approaches posed the greatest difficulty in deciding upon the winners, so once again I have chosen entries that focused on different aspects.

The Gold Certificate, and £30 voucher, is awarded to Year 8 student Emma Allen for her very comprehensive 19 slide powerpoint which gathered ideas and activities from a wide range of sources. There must certainly have been something for everyone in this entry!

The Silver Certificate, and £15 voucher, is going to another Year 8 student Lincoln Walsh. Lincoln produced a shorter but very colourful and well-designed powerpoint with fun ideas.

The Bronze Certificate, and £5 voucher, will go to Year 7 student Alex Clibbens for producing a short video of her family lockdown VE Day plans. Alex wove in some foreign language work but she sneaked into third place by making me laugh as her grandmother, clearly socially isolating from the rest of the family, made a magical appearance toward the end of the video! We all need a bit of humour at the moment, so well done Alex!

The winning entries will be available for you all to see on the Navy Blazer blog via the school website or directly at thenavyblazer.maltonschool.org. There were other tremendous entries this week. Well done to everyone who took part. I do want to mention a really good idea from Hannah Copley to do

a bit of family history research as a way of connecting back to VE Day and to Jonathan Stockill who also produced a short video with a powerful remembrance section at the end.

The winners of the 5th challenge, the best book review of a lockdown read, and the 6th challenge, the best "found" poem, will be announced in my next letter.

The closing date for the 7th challenge, the best artistic response to capture an aspect of the current moment, is next Monday (18th May).

I will be issuing a new set of challenges in my next letter to take us through from 1st June to the end of term in July.

Remember, submissions have to be made electronically, via email to myself – rjw@maltonschool.org - by 9.00am on the date shown. If your work is on paper please just take a photograph of it and submit it as an attachment to your email (not in the main body of the email). And good luck!

The Speakers for Schools Programme

The Speakers for Schools charity is delivering a series of inspirational talks, by leading figures in their field, on-line with free access for students. The details of these talks can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/inspiration/vtalks/upcoming-vtalks/>

The next talk is tomorrow:

- **Thursday 14th May 10am Ed Couchman, General Manager, SNAP Inc (Snapchat)**

This session will focus on Ed's own story, what advice he would share with his younger self and how social media / technology might change in the future.

How to access VTalks - No logins are required and all attendees can stream the talks without downloading Microsoft Teams. Links should be opened in a browser that is not Internet Explorer. Students can view by clicking WATCH LIVE TALK HERE and then clicking 'Watch on web instead' and sign in anonymously. The speakers will appear at the set times e.g. 10am and 2pm. You can now access previous talks on our [Video Library](#).

I will write again next week with further details of our next steps. In the meantime I hope you and your family keep safe and well. Best wishes from all of us at school.

Yours faithfully,



Rob Williams

Headteacher