



Kelmscott School

"Putting Learning First"

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Kelmscott School Plan – what next?

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. What an immensely challenging few weeks it has been with difficult decisions for you to make. Many thanks for your support and understanding during a disrupted week of school particularly for Years 8 and 9. I believe that our school community has come together exceptionally well, which is no surprise to me.

We will continue to communicate regularly with you, our Kelmscott family, in three ways;

- 1.) Via the school app
- 2.) Via the school website
- 3.) Via the school Twitter accounts @KelmscottSchool @KelmscottHT

We will be keeping a very close eye on our networks to ensure that as soon as we have the answers to the many questions we all have, we are able to provide you with the answers to those questions.

The Teaching and Learning team have a series of tweets planned to go out during the time that we are closed to try to maintain momentum with our students in terms of learning. As you are aware, if students are at home, they are to access the work, that teachers have planned, via our school website. Students who are unable to access the internet or email have been provided with hardcopies of the work that has been planned for the next fortnight. Staff are busy planning work for weeks three onwards as we speak. That too will be available on our website in due course. Please get in contact if you would like hard copies from week three onwards.

Our advice for you **at home** is fairly simple. Please encourage your children to **follow their normal school day**. They have a two-week timetable that they can continue to follow. The timings of the day and the routine that brings will be helpful for them and you at home. **It is vital that they maintain their studies to ensure they are not disadvantaged further down the line.**

As well as being asked by the government, we feel a *moral responsibility* to be here for you over the next few weeks and even months. Our planning has got us as far as Easter but our planned model will easily run after or even during the holidays too, assuming there is demand. On the assumption that your child does not present any symptoms, **Kelmscott will be open each day** for students who may be at risk, as well as students of key workers. The list of keyworkers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Having said that, if you are not on the list but have other specific issues, please **call** us to discuss this. Staff will be in school each day to help with any enquiries you may have from your homes.

If you require a place for your child in school from Monday 23rd March, please follow the guidelines below:

- Contact the school on info@kelmscott.waltham.sch.uk or call on 0208 521 2115 to inform us that your child will be attending the following day
- If your child has a medical need please let the school know and ensure they bring in their own medication to keep on them throughout the day
- Students may wear their *own clothes* but will need to bring their lanyards
- Food will be available for all students

It is very important that we have an idea of numbers so please get in contact as soon as you can if you would like to take us up on this.

The structure of the days will be as follows:

9.00am	Arrival/Breakfast Club
9.30am	Session 1 – Study
10.30am	Session 2 – Activity
11.30am	Session 3 – Study
12.30pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Session 4 – Activity
2.00pm	Session 5 – Activity
3.00pm	Close

During study sessions, students will complete the work that has been set for them by their teachers that can be found on our website. During the activities sessions students will have a choice of sport, art, reading, gaming, board games, film club or gardening. These won't be school days, **the emphasis will be on having fun** and enjoying ourselves – staff too.

I pitched this idea to staff yesterday and asked for volunteers to help us run this programme. The response from staff was overwhelming – what a fantastic bunch they are. They are geared up and ready to go from Monday.

We have been making contact these past few days with families eligible for **Free School Meals** (FSM). These will be available to collect next week and the week after, please call the school number if you have any queries here. There may be a different plan after the Easter holidays but we will update you on that in due course.

I have felt very emotional talking to all students but particularly Year 11 this week as it feels very cruel that their time at school is likely to be over without GCSEs to take. The majority are experiencing a number of different emotions as they try to process all of this. I shared the following advice at assembly yesterday which I think is important to share with you too:

- We are proud of them
- It is vital they continue to study in order to prepare themselves properly for Year 12
- Learning is forever – the knowledge they have accrued will help them enormously in adult life
- Life is full of challenges that we have to overcome. If we can overcome this challenge (which we will) we can overcome anything
- The government will not disadvantage them when it comes to their GCSE grades
- Is there an opportunity in the next six months to learn something new? A language online? A new sport?

We are planning an event for Year 11 once all of this is over to mark their achievements, sign some shirts and say goodbye properly. More on this in due course

Finally, I do have concerns about all of our mental health during these times. I know you will all look out for one another but please see the link below which may provide you with support should you need it:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

We are here if you need us as **your community school**. Wishing you and your families well.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sam Jones
Headteacher