

## Headteacher's Blog 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

### ***Well-being and working from home Part 2!***

It has been another strange week and it doesn't seem real that we are about to go into the Easter holidays, normally a time for reflection and rest. I was pleased to be able to share our Ofsted report with you earlier in the week, a rare moment of good news and joy at this difficult time. If you missed the letter then you can read the report here:-

[https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/ofsted/10122547\\_The\\_Coleshill\\_School\\_136986\\_Final\\_PDF.pdf](https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/ofsted/10122547_The_Coleshill_School_136986_Final_PDF.pdf)

There are two themes to today's blog. The first is well-being and the second follows on from my notes last week on working from home, with a look ahead to how we will be developing our online learning as well as supporting those families who need to have work packs to support their child.

**Maintaining our well-being** is so important for all of us in our daily lives, but particularly at times of stress and difficulty, such as the period we are in now. There have been some very uplifting stories in the news this week of how people have been helping each other and it is important all of our families know that we are here for you, should you need any support or assistance. Our school is open every day and you can contact us via the usual school phone number or [enquiries@thecoleshillschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thecoleshillschool.org.uk) so we can signpost you to the right support. I hope you are managing to look after your own well-being by taking some exercise, spending some quality time with loved ones and using some of this enforced time away from the hustle and bustle of the world to have a break. Attached to this blog is a link to a 'Well-Being Calendar':

[https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/Headteachers\\_Blog/2019-2020/2020.04-Keeping\\_Well\\_Calendar.pdf](https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/Headteachers_Blog/2019-2020/2020.04-Keeping_Well_Calendar.pdf) which was created by The Arthur Terry School. There are some great ideas here for you to use with your family and there will be an updated calendar in time for May. I also include a link to 'We're in this together' which has some helpful messages you can share with your family [https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/Headteachers\\_Blog/2019-2020/2020.04-Were\\_In\\_This\\_Together.pdf](https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/Headteachers_Blog/2019-2020/2020.04-Were_In_This_Together.pdf)

**Working from home** will begin to look different over the next half term. This will be a gradual change depending on which year group your child is in and there will be detailed instructions coming out for each year group on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. I hope you can appreciate that we are taking our time to get this right and not bombard you with information. My advice from last week remains the same; we understand the challenges of your child working at home and our expectations, for now, are set out in the FAQ sheet we sent last week:-

[https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/Headteachers\\_Blog/2019-2020/2020.03.27-FAQ.pdf](https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/uploads/PDF/Headteachers_Blog/2019-2020/2020.03.27-FAQ.pdf)

Over Easter our teachers, unless they are working in school, are off and so we do not expect any work to be done by the students. There are plenty of online resources on our website if you do want your child to do some activities.

### **How things will look next half term.**

As we can assume that schools will continue to be closed to the majority of children next half term we will be developing our provision as set out below. However, I want to make two general points:

1. We will be continuously reviewing our plan as we adapt and adjust to the new ways of remote learning and teaching. We will begin with Y10 and Y12 and after 3 weeks, if this is

successful, our aim is to include the other year groups. Therefore by week 4 of next half term, Years 7 – 9 should also expect changes to their remote learning.

2. For those families who are accessing work online we will increasingly be moving to the use of Microsoft 365. Your child already has access to this through their email and it will allow them to more easily access any resources being uploaded by teachers and also means your child can use the software within Microsoft (word, power point etc) using the school's licence. Separate guidance will be coming out about the use of Microsoft 365, but I would encourage you to have a look at what is available currently. All students have already been issued with an e mail and a password. If your child has forgotten their e mail or password they can email [passwords@thecoleshillschool.org](mailto:passwords@thecoleshillschool.org) with their FULL NAME and year group.

### Year 10 and Year 12

We are conscious that Year 10 and 12 are missing a vital chunk of time very close to their examination year. Therefore we need to begin to deliver new content next half term. This will be delivered through a combination of some taught lessons through Microsoft Teams (more information to follow) and the use of other subject based applications, where available. There will be an expectation that students attend these virtual lessons, when they are available so that they can be taught units of work and then complete and return work for feedback to check their understanding. This process will take time to develop and the lessons may not immediately be available from all subjects/teachers, but we will keep you updated on when the lessons will be on. These units will also be available in a printed pack which can be requested by contacting school reception, if your child is unable to access these resources online.

### Years 7-9

Students will continue to receive online work from their teachers, via Go4Schools, which will be based on topics they have already covered. There will be a variety of activities and assessment that can be self-marked, such as quizzes or short tests. We will not expect this work to be returned for marking.

In addition to the online work being set we are also going to have packs available for each year group, which you can call school to request, if you are unable to access the resources online. These packs will be a collection of the work being set online by teachers, but pre-printed for you. The packs will simply be organised into Year 7 Pack 1, Pack 2 etc so your child can work through them.

For Year 11 and 13 students we will be writing to families later today, following the expected announcement around how GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded.

### **Provision for students of Key Workers over the Easter holiday**

A reminder that the school will continue to be open throughout the Easter holiday, including Good Friday and Easter Monday, for the families of Key Workers or for those families who feel their children are vulnerable and in need of our support. This should of course be an absolute last resort, where you are unable to support your child at home. We would ask you to contact our school reception, which is open during normal school hours, if you are in need of this service so that we can plan, as we have minimal staffing operating and cannot manage many students.

### **Free School Meals provision**

Please note that we are no longer delivering food as we are moving to a voucher system, which we hope will provide better support for our families.

In practical terms, this means that you will be provided with a £30 voucher for Asda supermarket, to support you through the two week Easter holiday period. For most of our families these vouchers will be sent to you via email on a link that you must then download. For those families who do not use email, we will print out the vouchers and post these to you. We expect to receive these vouchers by Tuesday at the latest and will then forward to parents via email or the post, their vouchers. If you have not received anything by Thursday please contact the school.

We will then be part of a national voucher scheme and will be communicating to you about this after in time for the first week back after Easter.

I wish all of our families a peaceful Easter break, stay safe.

Ian Smith-Childs

Headteacher