



Battle Abbey School

Battle

East Sussex

TN33 0AD

Telephone 01424 772385

Facsimile 01424 773573

avid Clark, BA, M Phil (Cantab)

3rd April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we come to the end of a rather unusual term in testing times I felt it is time to write to update you on some key aspects of the workings of the Senior School.

Lessons have certainly looked and felt very different over the past two weeks. I would like to pay homage to our dedicated teaching staff who have had to adapt to a new method of delivering lessons. Hundreds of lessons have been delivered by a variety of methods. This has been a challenge to students, teachers and the technology alike. However, we are all developing new skills and constantly reviewing how we both teach and learn. Mr Austen-White is currently reviewing the timetable and reflecting upon the best way to maintain the standards we set for ourselves and we are still holding an INSET day on Monday April 20th to share good practice amongst the teaching body.

It is also a challenging time for those students sitting examinations, particularly in Years 11 and 13. This is a national challenge and I have some sympathy for the examination boards who are having to react rapidly to maintain the integrity of the exam system. It appears that results will be based upon school predictions based upon a wide range of data and evidence. It is therefore important that, in particular, students in Year 13 keep up the hard work because of the complexity of assessment at this level and the need to further develop skills in advance of studying in greater depth at university.

Students in Year 11 will soon have a revised curriculum in which they can start to prepare fully for their Sixth Form options. This programme for all Year 11 students will enable them to get a 'head start' for next year and it will also allow them to undertake other prestigious qualifications such as the Extended Project. More on this will be issued in the new term ahead.

I am also pleased that the pastoral aspect of the school is still very much in operation. Form tutors have continued to make contact with their form groups, Mrs Buckland has continued to oversee student welfare and Mr Perry is communicating with the boarders. Students have also been able to engage with our various social media platforms to view a range of postings that have helped to lift the spirits – and I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to this aspect of our virtual offering.

As we move toward the holidays I have one important request - that we all, as a school community, take time as far as possible to be with our families, have a rest and relax. As a school we are very aware that, as parents and guardians, you have had additional pressures placed upon you with having to work from home whilst looking after your children. Please be mindful that this is also true of the teaching and support staff here at Battle Abbey School. I would therefore encourage you to give your children a break from lessons during the holidays, ask them to consider whether an email to a teacher is needed and try to enjoy the good weather predicted over the next two weeks. For those of you who would like to keep active and engaged, there is a section on Firefly entitled 'Working From Home' which has well over one hundred links and activities to support you. These include guidance on staying healthy, advice on e-safety and many, many activities for you and/or your children to enjoy over the break.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter. I look forward to reconnecting with you all 'virtually' on Tuesday 21st April and in person soon after. Please stay safe and Foy est Tout – Faith is All.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Usher
Deputy Head