

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Headteacher: Mrs S Dickinson BA (Hons) NPQH



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH
Tel: 01474 814646
Website: www.meophamschool.org.uk

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure you will be aware by now, the Government has decided to shut all schools in England by close of business on Friday, 20th March. This is in order to limit the further spread of the Covid-19 virus. We have also been told that there will be no GCSE or A Level examinations in the summer. Whilst schools had anticipated that it was likely that we would be directed to close at some point in order to reduce the spread of the virus, the news to cancel the examinations has come as a shock to us all.

I met with all students in Year 11 and Year 13 first thing this morning. I reassured them that we will do everything that we can to work with them to ensure that they all receive the GCSE and A Level grades that they deserve. Whilst the Government has not given us guidance, yet, as to how these grades will be arrived at, we can only assume that they will be based on students' mock examination results and continuous assessment. I have stressed to the students this morning that we will take every piece of work that they complete between now and the middle of May into account in any Exam Board predictions that we make. I have assured them that they have everything to play for. We will continue to set work for them daily and will be available for them via Google Classroom and school email. I firmly believe that our students need to view the extraordinary situation that we find ourselves in as an opportunity. Hard work pays off, and if they continue to work hard at home on the work we are setting them, they will be rightly rewarded in the end.

Obviously, we will do everything we can to support **all** students, from Year 7 through to Year 13, during these challenging circumstances. As of Monday 23rd March, until further notice, Meopham School will be setting work for students via Google Classroom.

All students in Years 7-13 will have work set on Google Classroom by their subject teachers. Staff will upload resources to support learning. Teachers will be available on the real time messaging "Stream" within Google Classroom on a regular basis to answer any questions and offer support or guidance where needed. This is clearly accessible via the "Stream" tab which will appear once students click into their lesson. Teachers will answer questions throughout the school day, where possible, and will announce specific times where they will be available in real-time.

Please ensure your child logs on to <https://classroom.google.com> to access this work. Login details were sent to you in the post on Monday 16th March 2020. If your child has difficulty logging in, or has forgotten their password, please email MSS-Password@swale.at

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We also have paper-based workpacks for any students who have difficulty accessing the internet from home. Please inform us if your son or daughter requires one of these packs to be sent home: MSS-reception@swale.at

Whilst we have been directed by the Government to close on Friday, schools are required, however, to remain open to provide supervision for the children of "key workers". The children of these workers will access Google Classroom in the same way as our pupils who are working from home. We await a further announcement from the Prime Minister today as to the exact definition of a "key worker". We will be in touch with you about this as soon as we know more.

I am so proud to tell you that our students, your children, are busily working in lessons even as I write to you. It is very much business as usual. Their resilience, determination, and sense of optimism is a credit to us all.

Thank you for your understanding and support at this time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Dickinson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'S' at the beginning and a flourish at the end.

Mrs S. Dickinson,
Headteacher