

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School
providing a Values Based Education*

Update Letter 29-05-2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a good 'half term'.

It has been rather busy here at school preparing to adjust our Critical Worker provision in line with Government Guidelines (small groups with a limited number of teachers called protective 'bubbles'!). We have also had a significant increase in numbers. As more critical-worker parents go back to their jobs, more critical-worker students need to be accommodated in school. I am sending out detailed guidance for parents, carers and students about the changes and I'd be grateful if parents/carers could 'alert' students to the changes – we will also go through everything with students when they come into school on Monday.

We concluded our survey of Year 6 parents about the wider opening of school and, in the light of the SAGE scientific research, we will start our extended provision of support to a limited number of Year 6 students from Monday, 15th June. The SAGE research stated: "Delaying a school re-opening by two weeks (to 15th June) approximately halves the risk to children" (I have attached the SAGE documents for your information). We are just about able to accommodate the requests of all parents/carers who asked for one of the two-day placements and we will contact the families involved with further details next week.

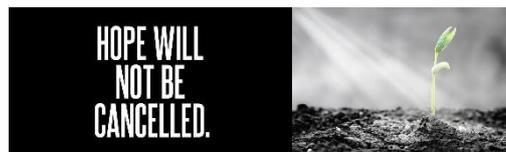
We can also confirm that we are not planning on Years 5, 7 or 8 returning to school before the end of the Summer Term. We could not accommodate the volume of students on site safely nor would we have the staffing to cover the number of students. We are so sorry that we will not be able to have our traditional leavers' events for Year 8 and that we will not have the opportunity for a proper goodbye. We hope we can organise a reunion sometime in the future.

We will continue to provide online learning via 'Satchel One: Show My Homework' for all students and we are going to experiment with the technology to see if we can do some more Holywell-specific video-based lessons using programs such as Zoom (watch out next week as we trial some tutor-group catch-ups!). Mr Ulph and the pastoral teams have been working out how to put together online assemblies and, as Year 6 parents will know, I've just about mastered the art of doing online surveys - thank you for your patience last weekend!



... and as I have mentioned 'patience' ... we are almost at the end of May in which our Value of the Month has indeed been 'patience'. It has been rather apt ... and there is still an opportunity to share your examples of 'patience'. With regard to 'caterpillar-watch, they are now all in their cocoons and we patiently wait for them to turn into butterflies.

Our Value of the Month for June is 'HOPE' and Mrs Donnellan has put together a lovely introduction.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan

Acting Assistant Headteacher / DSL: Mrs J Davies

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HOPE



It is very appropriate that the value that was chosen for the month of June 2020 at Holywell was Hope.

No other value better sums up how many of you must be feeling at the moment.

You are probably looking forward to being able to see your grandparents, friends and other family members for the first time in many weeks. Because we have all obeyed the rules and stayed away from them for many weeks, we are now confident that very soon we will be able to see them again safely.

We may see some of you in school again soon and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone when it is safe to do so again. Even if that is not until September, we know we will welcome you again.

We are probably all hoping for different things- Mr V is hoping that he will be able to buy a large bucket of KFC again soon. Mr Simpson is hoping to be able to sing with his choir in person rather than over the internet. I am hoping that sometime soon I will be able to meet Miss Warren's baby, Maevan and Mrs Craffy's baby Thomas and welcome them properly into our Holywell community. Think about what you are most hoping for and drop us a line at school to let us know.

In the next week or so, the caterpillars that your friends who have been attending school have been patiently and carefully looking after, will transform into beautiful Painted Lady butterflies. One day very soon we will release them from their habitat and watch them fly away to begin their new lives.



Whilst you have been at home many of you will have grown, like our caterpillars and transformed into better versions of yourselves, with new skills and a new appreciation of things you took for granted before. Soon, like our beautiful butterflies, you will be released from your lockdown lives and we hope that you will make the most of your freedom, armed with what you have learned and grateful for the good things you have realised you have.

As this bible quote says, everyone at Holywell wishes you a future filled with hope. Be sure to enjoy it!



Mrs Donnellan

June, 2020

Have a good weekend.
With all best wishes
Mr Simpson