

Dear parents, carers and students,

As I find myself writing the date at the top of this letter I am reminded of the speed at which we seem to be approaching the end of this academic year. At the beginning of 2019-20 we would never have predicted that we would be finishing the academic year in this way. We are exceptionally proud of "Team Sherburn" for all that has been completed during this unprecedented time; we are especially grateful to our parents/carers for all you have done to support your child's/children's learning journey during this time and to nurture them emotionally.

I know we have all had to become used to many aspects of life that we may not have even heard of 5 months ago; I, personally, had never 'Zoomed' or been on 'Google Meets' and I had not, as a parent, had the opportunity to consider Remote Learning and the many challenges that this brings. There are of course, many benefits to these platforms and the others which may have been experienced during this time, and as promised to you in earlier communications, we will continue to adapt and refine our offer as we prepare for the Autumn Term.

Feedback on our Pilot of Live Lessons

As some parents will be aware we have trialled "live lessons" with some of our sixth form subjects. This has certainly been a learning curve for all involved!

The MAT approved platform for any "live lessons" is "Google Meets" and in line with many platforms, it was originally designed for small, meeting type sessions. It was not designed for teaching and as a result it has a number of flaws, for example, the in-ability for the presenter to mute all participants, and the opportunity for students to turn off their cameras or to control the presentation of slides, creates new issues.

We are, however, pleased that Google have responded to schools' concerns and promise us that these issues will be resolved at some point in the Autumn term. This means that if we were to return to a "lockdown" situation, we would be in a better position to roll out some live lessons to increasing numbers of students. I'd like to thank staff for the way that they have engaged in this pilot and the sixth formers, who have helped to support staff and have been very patient with our limited technical skills!

Remote Learning Student Questionnaire

Thank you to all the students who completed our first Remote Learning survey. We are keen to see if some of the changes we have made following survey one, like recording lessons, has made a difference. Please could you take the time to complete our second survey which you will find here: <https://forms.gle/PvK4JNsZbuowdiHH8>

Students in Years 10 and 12

Thank you!!! Your attendance to your face-to-face sessions has been superb. Staff have been equally impressed by your attitude to learning and engagement. In order to support you further staff have been busy preparing Summer Enrichment work and we have also arranged for an introductory session by Kooth, an on-line counselling service that will be able to support any of you who have been struggling with worries or concerns.

For students in Year 10, this means that the sessions that take place on the final week of term will be extended by thirty minutes, running from 9.30 – 12 p.m. This extended time will allow for the introduction of Kooth, the distribution of your Summer Enrichment packs and the return of any items left in student lockers.

Please be reassured that strict health and safety measures will be in place in order to distribute items to students, with packs and locker items being placed on their named desks the night prior to students coming into school to minimise contact.

Students in Years 7 – 9

We know that many of you have been frustrated that school has not been open for you. We also know that some of you may be worried about what school will be like in September and we want to reassure you and support you. As part of that, following government guidance we are now in a position to invite you in for one face-to-face meeting with your form, form tutor and/or your House Achievement Leader. These sessions will:

- Provide you with an opportunity to share any worries or concerns that you may have about returning in September;
- Enable you to collect your Summer Enrichment work;
- Collect any items that you may have left in your lockers.

You will receive an invitation early next week which will tell you the time and date of your session. The letter will also detail some of the safety measures we are putting in place as per our Risk Assessment. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible before the end of term.

Students in Years 7 – 11 – University of York Learning Hub

Do you feel annoyed that you didn't win an Amazon gift voucher? Are you curious about life at University? Well, perhaps the University of York can help! They've launched their Learning Hub which has lots of information as well as opportunities for you win Amazon vouchers. Check out Show My Homework, where Mr Featherstone has posted their initial information and visit the University of York website.

Who needs Joe Wicks when you have the Sherburn PE Department?!

I hope that Joe Wicks has got you geared up and in tip top condition because starting on Monday 13th July, we will be holding our very first virtual Sports Day! Follow the PE department on Twitter, and check Show My Homework each day, to find out what daily challenges await. Remember- participation earns your House points! You've got to be in to win!

Spruce Up Sherburn

You may remember that I showed you how our generous donations from FOSH enabled us to repaint the doors in MFL/English and reception; but just look at this – wonderful new carpet has also been laid in all our English and Language teaching rooms. Thank you so much FOSH; and let's hope we can all go "bonkers" at the bingo soon.



And finally...

There has been much speculation in the media about the government guidance that is due to be published this week. I want to assure you that we are keen to welcome students on site as soon as possible and that we are busy planning for Results Days and September. My intention is to write to parents/carers next week with our plans (and then to update you after GCSE Results on Friday 21st August).

As always, thank you for your support,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher
Sherburn High School