

Dear parents, carers and students,

I hope you all had a restful “Easter break” (with plenty of chocolate!) and welcome to the start of the summer term!

GCSEs, AS and A Level Update

During the Easter holidays Ofqual confirmed that students would receive their results on the original planned results days. A level results will be published on 13th August and GCSEs on 20th August. (Information about how this will work in practice will follow).

An Introduction to Higher Education

The University of York has launched an online project which involves interactive activities specifically designed for Year 7 to Year 11 students to explore their aspirations and support their journey towards higher education.

Every Tuesday, the project webpage will be updated with new interactive and engaging content, each covering a different topic from ‘what is higher education study?’ through to ‘a day in the life of a university student’.

There are opportunities for students to complete tasks online, ask questions and win fantastic prizes such as Apple Airpods and Amazon Vouchers!

How to get involved

As this resource is only available to their partner schools, the web page is hidden from the main University of York website. You will, therefore, need the link below to access it.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/pre-16/pre-16-hub/>

Careers Advice for Students in Years 10 - 13

Perhaps this time away from school has made you think about your future. Perhaps you’re unsure of where to go next. Don’t worry! You can still access support from our Careers Advisor on topics like: Post 16 Options, CV writing, Higher Education and more.

Tracey Chapman, our advisor is available each Wednesday via email: tracey.chapman@shs.starmat.uk or via telephone on: 07920071436

Remote Learning – Some Updates and Reminders for Students

Year 12 – Don’t forget that Wednesday 29th April sees a return to your assessment hours! Please continue to check Show My Homework each Wednesday for details of Post-16 work.

Year 11 – Remember, departments are now setting Bridging Work to help support your transition into post 16 studies. Please check Show My Homework each Wednesday and “get ahead” by undertaking the reading, writing and research tasks.

Years 7-10 We are keen for you to receive some feedback on the work that you are doing. This means that subjects will now identify which tasks they expect you to submit for feedback. (Forgotten how to do this? Check out our Twitter account, where we put a handy animated guide on submitting work).

Don’t worry!

You won’t be expected to submit every single piece of work that you do.

There should be a mixture of some short, quiz like tasks and some longer pieces of work.

If you're stuck – email for help.

Feedback will sometimes include DIRT for you to complete.

You will receive the Feedback on Show My Homework – it will look as though an additional homework task has been set. You will know when to expect the feedback because subjects will publish the date when they set the feedback task.

Remote Learning – Some Useful Information for both Parents/Carers and Students

On Monday 20th April the government launched some additional resources and learning platforms for schools and students. These are Oak National Academy which has a range of lessons for students in Years 7 - 10 and BBC Daily Bitesize which has a range of lessons that can be viewed on television or on other devices. Students may enjoy using these resources to supplement the tasks set by their subject teachers.

Some parents/carers have contacted me to ask if we will be producing video type lessons or running on-line lessons. This is not something that we are currently doing for safeguarding reasons. There have been some instances in other schools where staff voices and images have been reproduced and mis-used on various social media platforms. There have also been reports of live lessons being hacked, and pornographic images being shown instead.

Wellbeing and Safeguarding

Remember to check our weekly Wellbeing updates on our website. We have also been sent the following information which you may find helpful:

From North Yorkshire Police:

“Online gaming film” - With young people off school they are more likely to be playing games consoles to entertain and occupy them. A film has been created to highlight the possible risks of young people being radicalised and groomed through playing online games with strangers who seek to influence vulnerable people via the chat facility.

The film is free and can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhpeFG9hGm4&feature=youtu.be>

“Hollyoaks” radicalisation film

The full film created by “Hollyoaks” is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQArH9YCI7E&feature=youtu.be>

A Guide to “Exercise” for SEND parents (although others may find this very helpful!)

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/coronavirus-regulations-guide-exercise-send-parents-julian-norman?fbclid=IwAR2fKGNECtA_ZMtaAf435xBX7WTxbAd93KohAWAuuTRjr3Qkj4RSDQCXZqA

Provision Post Easter

Provision for children of Key Workers and vulnerable families re-started on Monday 20th April. Please email admin@shs.starmat.uk if you are eligible for this provision to book a place for child/children (please note, that students will be required to bring a packed lunch).

Free School Meals

In these challenging times, more families might now be eligible to claim for Free School Meals (FSM). This could well be the case if your circumstances have changed as a result of work or income being affected.

If you're waiting for a decision of Universal Credit (UC), you can still submit an application (even though the decision won't be reached until your UC is confirmed). If you're successful with your FSM application, then your child will keep their entitlement until the end of the UC roll out (which is currently set for 2023).

Please – don't hesitate to seek support. To find out if you qualify for Free School Meals to apply on line visit this website: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

And finally...

It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, not helped by some media reporting about the re-opening of schools or schools in the summer holidays. Rest assured, that as soon as we know how schools will re-open we will communicate with you directly.

Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by contacting the admin email address using admin@shs.starmat.uk which will be regularly checked during this time.

As always, thank you for your support,

Yours

Miriam Oakley

Headteacher