

9 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As term 6 swings into action we are a little clearer in how the rest of the school year is going to run its course. As you will know there are no national plans to bring year 7-9 back into school and year 10 is a limited number. Based on this information we have introduced live lessons for English, Maths and Science this term for year 10 and we are really proud of how the year 10s have responded. Nearly 70% of all pupils accessed the lessons and they were recorded for other pupils to access via google classroom. The remaining subjects have created recorded lessons so that pupils can hear their teacher's voice and receive some verbal direction on how to address the work set. Needless to say, staff remain on email if you have any further questions.

Going forward we will be introducing a similar format for other year groups. As of next week, year 9 can expect to be receiving recorded lessons from staff (some staff have already started doing this) and the following week year 7 & 8 will get the same style of lessons. Year 8 pupils should complete work set by core subjects and the option subjects they have chosen. With regards to year 7 we are looking at providing work once a fortnight for some subjects so they are not overwhelmed with the amount of work which is delivered via classcharts.

We believe that the best education we can offer at the moment is using this format. Progress leaders will monitor handing in rates and contact the pupils (and their parents) where work is not being submitted to see how we can provide further support.

Furthermore, tutors have been making calls to pupils in their tutor group. In the first instance, these calls are being made to those who did not complete the recent wellbeing survey as we want to check in to ensure they are ok. Further calls will be made to try and offer any support that is needed. Although schools now have the option of bringing in up to 25% of year 10 pupils at any one time we are not looking to do this at the moment. We would not be able to teach them in the way that we would want to and feel that the online provision coupled with the wellbeing calls is the best way forward. Increasing the number of pupils within school purely to be supervised increases the risk of infection spreading. We will continue to monitor this and may review our practices moving forward.

We appreciate that this is a stressful time for all and have been in touch with a local organisation, Holding Space, who may be able to support you if you need it. In their own words this is what they offer:

Holding Space is a not for profit community organisation supporting parents, carers, children and families who are struggling with their mental health. We believe that educating, supporting and



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empowering families is crucial to the mental health of the next generation, along with early intervention and support.

We want to support parents, carers and families and for them to know they are not alone. Particularly those who do not have access to or are not eligible for NHS or Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHs). We provide a safe non-judgemental space for parents, carers, children and families where they can connect, talk, share and be supported along their journey.

Prior to the current crisis we were running 3 face to face support sessions. Within the team we also have a team of therapists we can signpost families to for further support and intervention. To date we have helped approximately 40 families directly and many more indirectly through our social media channels, email and telephone.

Their contact details are:

Facebook: @Eastbourneholdingspace

Twitter: space_holding

www.holdingspace.org.uk

We trust this organisation may be of support for some and please get in touch with them directly.


Hopefully that clarifies our plans for the next few weeks. We will of course adapt our plans if and when circumstances change and based on evaluation of our provision.

As always, sincere thanks for your ongoing support at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely



PJ Marchant
Headteacher



Ian Swingler
Head of Secondary Phase