



THE HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following last night's unexpected announcement that schools would close until February half term, we have started to teach all students remotely. As I mentioned before Christmas, we will set all work on *Show My Homework*. This will provide your children with a central, consistent point from which to access their learning. Work will be set in line with each student's normal timetable.

The information provided for each lesson in *Show My Homework* will include links to appropriate learning activities - this could include resources, videos, the use of *Google Classrooms*, recordings from teachers and some 'live' learning. We will be piloting some new approaches to remote learning during this period of lockdown and we hope that students find them beneficial.

Mr Cooke will continue to keep in regular contact with you about remote learning.

We will do the following to support your children during this time:

- provide remote lessons that support your child to follow the curriculum
- mark and assess specified work
- undertake weekly wellbeing checks
- provide your child with a weekly school assembly
- communicate with you regularly (including a weekly bulletin)
- be here to answer your queries

As outlined in my previous letter, a number of critical worker and vulnerable children will be supervised in school. They will follow the same programme as students who remain at home. The advice from Essex Local Authority remains that, wherever possible, children should work from home in order to support the effort to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Year 11 and 13

- We are very disappointed that, once again, our students face uncertainty. The information provided by the Prime Minister stated that it was not possible for exams to go ahead as planned. However, there was little additional detail provided and there has been no confirmation about how students will be assessed this year. We are awaiting further information and we will communicate with you as soon as we know more.
- We know how hard our students have been working and they should be reassured that this work will be recognised. They must continue to work hard to complete the planned curriculum so that, whatever happens in the summer, they are in the best position to succeed.

Parsonage Downs, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 2AU

T 01371 872560 F 01371 874632 E enquiries@hrs.education www.helena-roman.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Daniel Gee BA(Hons), MA, NPGH

- We will now not be running the Y11 and Y13 mocks that were planned for this half term. In addition, we will not be asking students to complete these exams remotely as it is not possible to ensure a consistent process. We also wish to avoid additional stress and anxiety for our students at this time.
- The revision undertaken will still stand students in good stead for future assessments that will be completed in exam conditions in school. At present, we are still planning to run some mocks later in the year.

January public examinations

- According to the Department for Education, the January vocational exams run by the exam boards are expected to take place and students should continue to prepare for them and make plans to attend school for those exams.

We are very grateful for the support that you continue to show us at this extremely difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Gee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Daniel Gee
Headteacher