

Monday 23rd March 2020

Dear parents and carers

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Update 7

Newquay Tretherras is closed to most of our students until further notice and we are working on a skeleton staffing structure to protect our staff, our children and their families as far as we possibly can from infection by the COVID-19 virus.

HUB PROVISION

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME IF AT ALL POSSIBLE -

THE SAFEST PLACE FOR YOUR CHILDREN IS AT HOME, NOT IN SCHOOL.

Keeping NT open as a Hub for Tretherras and Newquay Junior students is only an **emergency provision** for the children of key workers who are critical to the COVID-19 response and for our vulnerable children when there is no other alternative.

We are always here to support our young people and safeguarding measures are firmly in place for us to keep in touch with particular students by our pastoral teams in the weeks and months ahead.

We are monitoring the developing COVID-19 spread in Cornwall carefully and at the point of writing, it is likely that you will receive an email this week which will enable you to book your child or children into school next week if you need emergency childcare support according to your work pattern. It is vitally important that you let us know which children will be coming into school so that we can ensure adequate levels of staffing supervision, food and resources. As this is emergency holiday childcare provision and, in the eyes of the students, it is supposed to be their Easter break, please send your children equipped with enough to keep them occupied and entertained if they choose not to complete schoolwork next week, just like their peers who are at home. A programme of structured study supervision will start after Easter.

REMOTE WORKING

As you know, we have already prepared our students for working independently and they can access their work remotely through Class Charts, Teams and Office 365 via the links on our school website, using their usernames and passwords. Some students and parents have experienced IT issues this week, probably due to unprecedented demand on the external learning platforms and networks. We believe this is being addressed and will settle in time, so please be patient, as it is an external and national issue.

- Work and revision will continue to be set for students using Class Charts and Teams which can be accessed through the school's website page and Office 365 as usual
- Teachers will communicate with students and classes through Class Charts and Teams
- Students can save their work to SharePoint on One Drive through Office 365 or Teams and share it directly with their teachers
- Any work or homework set for KS3 students will appear on the Class Charts App, so parents and students can easily see what's there.
- All parents and students have been emailed instructions on how to upload work to One Drive and Class Charts
- Please **do not** send staff individual emails, for safeguarding reasons.

EXAMS UPDATE

As you are already aware, public examinations for year 11 and the sixth form will not take place this year and we have written letters to these year groups separately. We are told that students' exam grades will be decided by Ofqual and the examination boards. We are still waiting to hear precise information but have been told by Ofqual they hope to deliver a grade that is a fair reflection of the work students have put in over the last two years of study. Although the exact formula is not yet known at the time of writing, student grades will be decided using the following criteria to calculate the final grade:

- Coursework grades (where appropriate).
- Mock/PPE exam grades.
- Prior attainment (at GCSE and AS Level).
- Teacher predicted grades. The government hope to get the grades released to students in July 2020.

Students who disagree with the grades will be able to do the following things:

- Appeal against the grade using additional information.
- Take the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. The dates for this are obviously not yet known.
- Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

We will continue to update you when more information is made available and will continue to use our school website, email and social media accounts to keep in touch with you. You will be able to communicate with staff using the usual email contact addresses and through enquiries@tretherras.net

I would like to thank you for your sensible and supportive approach during this challenging time for us all. On behalf of the staff at Tretherras, I am sending you and your families our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



MRS S FAIRBAIRN
Executive Headteacher