

Tuesday 7th April 2020

Dear parents and carers

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Update 8

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. The long-awaited Spring sunshine is certainly helping to lift the spirits of Tretherras staff. Our Hub arrangement for the children of key workers and students needing extra support is working very well and everyone involved is enjoying the semblance of normality and, especially, seeing some friendly student faces.

Free school meals support

If your children are in receipt of free school meals and you have missed the recent deadline for the meal voucher scheme, please do get in touch as we will continue to support you and arrange for voucher provision as soon as possible. Physical eGift cards, virtual eGift cards and a care package of food is available. If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01637-872080 between 8am-3pm, Monday to Friday, or by emailing: secretary@tretherras.net

GCSE and A level Exams

We are writing to Year 11 and Year 13 separately now that Ofqual, the group who oversee the exams process on behalf of the government, has published the way GCSE exam grades will be decided.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

Schools are asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they taken their exams in the normal way this year.

We will take into account the full range of available evidence when we grade students, including:

- Non-exam assessment (including coursework that was completed before school closures)
- End of unit test scores
- The results of any homework assignments and quality of class work completed over the course
- PPE mock exams
- Any other records of student performance over the course of study.

Tretherras teachers already use internal data to give regular 'Most Likely Grades' which are included in the reports you get from us throughout the year. We are very accurate with our final predictions each year, and the grades we allocate will be moderated and scrutinised by subject leaders and senior leaders before they are submitted to the exam boards at the end of May.

The exam boards will then analyse and moderate our grades further to ensure that they are realistic and fair, by testing them against:

- Expected national outcomes for this year's students
- The prior attainment of students at every school
- Tretherras' GCSE results in recent years.

Although this is an unusual year, we have been reassured that these results will be treated in the same way as any results in any other year and that they will allow the same routes into higher level study, apprenticeships or employment as other years. Students will be able to appeal a result if they feel it is unfair and there will be autumn examinations available for any student who wants to physically sit the exam they have missed.

The plan moving forwards after Easter

We are likely to be closed for the foreseeable future. Attached to this letter is 'A Guide to Distance Learning' for parents and carers alongside a separate guide for students. The guides offer a suggested timetable, advice on minimum expected times for student engagement, and contact details for further support. We are acutely aware of the challenges of managing home schooling, especially for families who have limited access to technology and multiple children in the house. Please do not feel under any pressure from us at all: we are all learning how best to remotely manage the learning of our children and to coordinate their work. The most important thing for us all is to stay safe and remain healthy.

We live in unprecedented times as a school but, whilst our building may be closed, our Tretherras community continues to thrive. We will be closed over the Easter bank holiday weekend, but please do get in touch with us if you need any support at all.

With very best wishes to you all this Easter.



MRS S FAIRBAIRN
Executive Headteacher