



10th May 2020

Dear parents, carers and members of the Chessington School community

I have just finished watching the Prime Minister's announcement to the country. I, like you and many of us at Chessington, had been eagerly anticipating this briefing for a clear idea of what is ahead for us in the wider sense and in schools. While we don't have the clarity nor exact timeline, we do have somewhat of a greater understanding of what schooling may be like this side of the summer. Even before this announcement I and all our colleagues at Chessington have been planning for all eventualities. Rest assured whenever and however we come back we will be ready, safe and excited to see our children. Please do not be too disheartened by the announcements and please encourage our children not to be either. Let's keep our children working hard online, staying engaged and keeping safe until we get more information. I will write to you later this week following further research, announcements, meetings with Kingston Heads and clarity from the DFE after debate in Parliament tomorrow.

Throughout this week I have been pleased with the destinations and transition work the team has been doing to make sure our Year 11s continue to learn, have bridging work and make a smooth transition to their next step. We have arranged it so that any of our Year 11s who wish to have bridging opportunities for A Level with Hollyfield as part of our family of schools have that opportunity. This begins tomorrow and messages will be going out in tutor groups on Google Classroom. All who have applied will get that work and the opportunity to try a range of other Post 16 subjects. If you haven't applied but are interested in this opportunity do email the school directly in the coming days [contactus@chessington.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:contactus@chessington.kingston.sch.uk) and you will be afforded this opportunity for your child also. We are also working with colleges and other institutions so that we have bridging work, some are taking longer than others understandably at this time, to get the work to us but we will continue to work on all Year 11s behalf. Remember for all Year 11 parents and students this is not the end. We have our leavers assembly on Friday 22nd and I can't wait to see you all there.

**Everyone valued • Every day an opportunity • Every moment focused on success**



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We now enter another week of lock down and another week of high quality online learning. Our teachers continue to work hard on finding new and innovative ways to engage with our children and teach online. They continue to come into school to support the children we have in school. They are working hard, in the midst of their own individual challenges, to make sure your children learn and stay part of the Chessington School community. A reminder that if your child does qualify for this provision on the school site, please do contact us so that we can support them and you throughout this time. Those students with EHCPs have the opportunity for enhanced provision also and we are very much looking forward to the work we may do with them in school; in a safe and distanced environment. Do also follow us on Twitter to see some of the wonderful things they have been doing in school, out of school and for some charity support ideas the school has in the coming weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for the support you have afforded us and your children. The messages of support and the kind words are gratefully received but the efforts you are making around the table, on the sofa and even on the go to help, cajole, motivate and reassure your children are making the key differences. Many of these efforts are being made in incredibly difficult circumstances, juggling work, the needs of other siblings and keeping a harmonious household. Our children may not yet realise that these interventions and actions are helping them to make progress and stay happy but they will thank you one day. I want to thank you now; all you are doing is hugely appreciated. Keep it up and do not hesitate to tell me if you need any support from us.

Take care, stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Ali  
Headteacher