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BISHOPSHALT SCHOOL

"Above all else a place for learning"

March 2020

Dear Year 12 Students

These are exceptional times for everyone, not just for young people like you, and we all need to play our part. Make sure that first and foremost you are adhering to Government advice and guidelines on the current lockdown, social distancing and hygiene measures that protect us all. Do not put yourselves or others at risk of infection, it is vital that we all do our best to support key workers and help save lives. Your health and the health of family, friends and your community is paramount.

For Year 12 this is an uncertain time. You will all be going through different emotions as a result of the school closure and the prospect of missing out socially and educationally for any period of time is not ideal but we will get through this. The school and your teachers will be doing everything possible over the coming months to make sure that you are not disadvantaged as a result of home schooling but we need your full co-operation right now!

You must log into Google Classroom and Show My Homework and you must complete and upload the work set for every single timetabled lesson. As you know, Year 13 exams this summer are cancelled and their final grades will be awarded by the exam boards with the teacher judgement from Bishopshalt School to support this. They will be awarded a grade which will reflect the work that they have put in thus far. Some students are regretting the lack of evidence to support their grade – weak mock grades, homework voids and attendance issues. This is why it is imperative that you continue to study. We will have exams for Year 12 as soon as is practically possible – so do not switch off.

Remember that there are hundreds of thousands of students in the same position as you; not that this will make you feel better; it will merely reassure you that you are not alone. The situation is unprecedented but we have to accept that events are outside our control but normality will return and your futures will be assured. As a nation we cannot afford for you not to go to university or not to have successful careers. As a school we want to ensure that you all have bright futures and that no-one is disadvantaged as a result of this international crisis.

At the end of the year we will still have a Review Day to make a recommendation with regards to progression into Year 13. Our default position is that everyone progresses seamlessly into Year 13 but it has to be based on solid foundations. If your January exams are weak and you have not been continuing your studies in the period of school closure, it will be hard to justify progress into Year 13. Your teachers will be assessing you every 2 weeks. Ensure that you complete these assessments on time to the best of your ability. We want you to carry on studying every lesson and uploading your work so that we have evidence of progress.

Please also take advantage of this time and enjoy learning for pleasure and leisure. Take a MOOC – a free massive open online course from Future Learn (www.futurelearn.com). The variety of courses is amazing and the choice is almost limitless. Choose a course which will help your career or simply enhance your general knowledge. Courses include the Causes of Human Disease, Royal Fashion and English Football: A Social History.

We also want you to read. Set yourself a reading challenge – a book a week - for pleasure. Do not underestimate the power of literacy and the impact that reading will have on your exams and futures. Project Gutenberg and Planet e Book are both free and great for classics and older texts out of copyright - www.Gutenberg.org or www.planetebook.com.

Yours faithfully

P Harris

Director of Sixth Form



A Cotton

Head of Year 12

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