



Wales HIGH SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: MR. G. DI'IASIO

3 April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you are well and continuing to prioritise both your well-being and family staying safe. Since I last wrote to you it seems that time has almost stood still for so many of us; yet our world has changed and so much has happened!

We have learned so much about different ways of communicating. Finding smart, cutting edge ways to ensure all students and staff can still remain engaged and in touch with each other. This has been such a learning curve and I am so proud of how both the students and staff have worked hard to overcome initial teething problems. Well done also to families too; I am certain your patience may have been tested as we have gone through this initial process of 'getting started' with home schooling, but hopefully things are settling and beginning to get a little easier.

We appreciate working at home is very different, with a different set of challenges and if you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the appropriate member of staff. If you are unsure who can help you best, please email contact@waleshigh.com and your email will be forwarded to the right member of staff who is best placed to support you.

In order to continue to help our families with the challenges of working together at home, the frequently asked questions and the issues that are raised most often by parents and students have been logged and been collated in a top tips for 'remote learning' newsletter. **Please follow the link to read this as it has a number of different ideas and also a list of email addresses and contacts for you if you are still having difficulties.** <https://www.waleshigh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/G4S-Family-Bulletin-3-April.pdf>

For me, one of the loveliest things that has come from this truly awful time, is to witness, first hand, the totally unselfish work of our community at this time of crisis. I have heard of some fantastic examples of where people, who are able to, have been supporting those who have needed to self-isolate or simply needed support at a time of crisis. It has been both incredibly humbling and inspirational to have seen how our community has come together and supported those who need it most. In our own small way our school has also played its part in supporting front line health workers. Not only through remaining open to provide a safe learning environment for the children of key workers, but also through donating and supplying PPE wear directly to those professionals who need it most.

Regarding questions directed to the finance department; please note that free school meals will continue to be supported through the Easter break. Please email finance@waleshigh.com if you haven't claimed reimbursement for 20 March - 3 April. Further information will be emailed to families shortly to explain the next part of the process.

With regards to pre-organised and future visits – all diarised visits in the summer term will be cancelled. All payments will be refunded in full after the Easter break and you should email finance@waleshigh.com to arrange reimbursement.

Only today we have received guidance from the Department of Education (DfE) that has informed us of how grades will be calculated. Please follow this link to the letter which DfE has written for students:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Please note, we have not been asked for any grades at this time. It is important for you to know that the grades on Go 4 Schools at the moment are not the grades we are going to submit as these were completed some weeks ago.

You will see in the letter it clearly highlights that students must not approach their teachers to ask what grade they have been given. Although staff may have previously given some indication, this letter now confirms that we can no longer discuss with any students the information that we will send to examining boards from this point.

Rest assured any predictions that we are asked to supply to the exam boards will be a professional and fair reflection of your work. However, we do know that the grades we supply will not necessarily be the final grade awarded as all grades, from all schools, will be statistically analysed and moderated to provide outcomes that do not 'disadvantage any student'.

Finally, my main reason for writing to you is to ensure you understand that over the next two weeks your priority is to recharge and allow your child to do the same. As we are now at the end of the second school week at home, it technically marks the start of what would have been the planned Easter break. Staff have been asked not to set any additional work for this rest period and so please don't worry if not all work has been completed for any deadlines immediately after Easter.

Although these Easter holidays will be a time we will never forget, do what you can to introduce new activities in to your routine. Nobody should have to worry about school work. We need to remain positive, innovative and creative in order to make the 'holiday' feel different!

Stay strong, stay safe and recharge and as we did last week, let's finish this letter off with the updated well-being blog <https://waleshighwellbeing.blogspot.com/> Please check out the many families and individual staff who have shared their stories and photographs. Guaranteed to keep spirits up!

Regards



Pepe Di'lasio
HEADTEACHER