



Haslingden High School and Sixth Form

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Dear Parent/Carer

I appreciate this is a very difficult time for all of us, for a whole variety of reasons. Much of the focus on education in the media has been on Year 11 and Year 13 who will not sit their examinations this summer, but will receive 'centre assessed' grades. However, we recognise the challenges that lay ahead for all students given that they are likely to miss out on a full term of face to face contact time.

We are constantly reviewing our processes for setting work and are endeavouring to ensure that we maintain a high quality of learning whilst continuing to be mindful not to overwhelm students. After Easter, teachers are being asked to set work in manageable chunks, and wherever possible this will be visible to students on a Friday for completion **not before** the following Friday; this should allow students to plan their work more effectively. Year 8 students are encouraged to focus on **core subjects** (English, maths, science and RS) as well as the **three options subjects** they have chosen, **plus their reserve choice**, given the relatively small, but significant number of students who change their options choices. Any work for KS4 subjects not studied at KS3 (for example business studies) will be made available to Y8 students by publishing this on SMHW in form groups. This will be clearly labelled to indicate that it is NOT essential for all students but only those who have selected these as options.

I would refer parents to an extract from a previous letter as to the amount of work students should be completing each week.

We have received a number of emails from parents asking about how much work their children should be doing. As you can appreciate, setting work in these circumstances is a very difficult task, bearing in mind that all students will work at different rates for a whole variety of reasons. The general expectation is that for students who are fit and well, they would complete the same amount of work as they would in a normal school week. What we definitely don't want is students worrying that they are 'getting behind with their work'. All members of staff are fully aware how difficult this is and will be very understanding if students are genuinely struggling. Going forward, a number of subjects will set longer blocks of work so that students are able to work through this at their own pace. If any parent is genuinely concerned, then please email the [Curriculum Leader](#) rather than individual teachers.

The time working on each option subject is likely to increase a little, given that students will not be completing work in subjects they will not be studying in Year 9. If your child is unsure what their four subjects are, please email Ms Edyvean (edyvean@haslingdenhigh.com).

Given it is unlikely we will return to school much before the end of term, it is important that students remain focussed during this time and continue to engage fully with all the work set. I understand that this is a challenging time but wherever possible, students should be keeping on track with their studies. Following conversations with colleagues, it is clear that a small number of our Year 8 cohort have not fully engaged with the work that was set prior to the 'Easter break'. I know that you will share our concern in this matter and going forward, I would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child, wherever possible, spends the required amount of time on their school work after the 'Easter break'. However, if your child is genuinely struggling, for whatever reason, I would encourage you to get in touch with their head of year, Mr Ikin (hikin@haslingdenhigh.com).

Best wishes

Mark Jackson
Headteacher

'Achievement for All'

Headteacher: Mr M Jackson BSC (Hons) MA