



STEWARDS ACADEMY

SCIENCE SPECIALIST

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Headteacher: Mrs H. Ginger BSc Mathematical Sciences

Dear Parent/Carer,

Update to Parents during School Closure

As we move into our second week of partial closure, we have been considering how we will keep communication channels open with parents and pupils over what is currently an open-ended period of time.

We have decided that we will send a weekly letter to parents with key information and updates on various aspects for consideration such as ClassCharts and Safeguarding. We hope that you will find these letters useful and ask that you read them each week and share them with your child to ensure that important information is not missed.

ClassCharts

All work for this week has been set for pupils on ClassCharts. If pupils require logins e.g. Read Theory, details of these have been left as notes on ClassCharts.

There is now a new facility on ClassCharts that has been included called 'announcements', whereby teachers can send messages to pupils regarding the work set. We hope this is proving useful. The alerts for announcements will be shown as a pop-up for pupils to click on. They will also be available to access via the menu list on the left-hand side of the screen for laptops and along the top for tablets.

Some useful tips to help you support your children while working from home include:

1. Have a dedicated space to do your work, this could be an area in your bedroom, a table, space in the living room etc. Make sure that you have enough room to complete the tasks you have been set.
2. Put your mobile phone away and turn off the TV to avoid distractions.
3. Make a to-do list or create a timetable to help you manage your time. Once you get into the hang of working from home you will have a better idea of how much time you need to allocate certain activities/subjects.

We appreciate that all family circumstances are different, and it may not be possible for all pupils to complete all work set at times. It is however important that pupils are spending at least a few hours each day keeping up to date with schoolwork, ensuring that they are intellectually challenged and not falling behind their peers.

Please note that no work will be set for over the Easter holidays. Work for pupils to complete after the Easter holidays is currently being organised by teachers. This will take the format of booklets with project-style learning which will cover lessons for the whole half-term. More details about this will follow.

Currently we are unable to accept work from students emailed to admin@stewardsacademy.org; however we are working on a facility by which we'll be able to do so, and will keep you updated in that respect. We would remind parents that the school admin email address is for parental correspondence only and is not available for pupils to use. The admin address can be used for help if you or your child is unsure what they need to do for a specific task.



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Safeguarding and Wellbeing Information

In line with government advice as of 23rd March 2020, we are all in a period of self-isolation or social distancing as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Isolation is an important step in helping to prevent the spread of the virus, and it is vital that we follow these guidelines, however extended periods of self-isolation can affect the mind in negative ways. Listed below are some websites that you may find useful when supporting your child in this respect:

- <https://www.annafreud.org/>: a children's charity dedicated to providing training & support for child mental health services
- <https://www.kooth.com/>: online mental health services for children, young people and adults
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/>: a counselling service for children and young people

The government have also issued new guidance in relation to online safety. We know that young people are likely to spend more time online, during this time, and so it is important that you are aware of the websites your children visit, and who they might be interacting with online. Should you choose to supplement the work provided by the school, please ensure that you are using reputable organisations. Support for parents and carers in keeping children safe online, can be found at:

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/>: working with online safety experts, to guide you through the many issues children can experience when using the internet.
- <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>: brings together the NSPCC's expertise in protecting children and O2's tech know-how
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>: an education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP command

Contacting the School

We are pleased that parents are using our email (admin@stewardsacademy.org) to ask questions and address concerns. We have included some Frequently Asked Questions that have not been addressed elsewhere in this letter below.

Frequently Asked Questions:

My child has left their book in school. Can they collect it?

Unfortunately, in order to comply with social distancing measures, we are unable to facilitate requests to collect any items from school. We ask that pupils complete work on paper or using ICT if they do not have their books at home.

My child has left personal belongings in their locker. Can they collect these?

Unfortunately, in order to comply with social distancing measures, we are unable to facilitate requests to collect any items from school.

Please note that reception is no longer open, and a duty phone is now in use for any urgent issues that cannot be addressed via email. The telephone number is as follows: **07407 808536**.

Finally, I would just like to wish you and your family well at this difficult time. I know that we face many challenges as a nation currently and these may currently be affecting your individual family. We continue to be committed to supporting pupils and families in any way that we can, albeit from a distance at this current time.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs H Ginger
Headteacher