

18th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to update you on how we are supporting your child to learn remotely. Recent feedback from our communications with you show that you feel well supported and you have particularly appreciated the phone calls from the pastoral teams. We are certainly very proud of how our families have responded during these challenging times. In response to the continued school closures and the uncertainty surrounding the timeline for fully reopening schools, I want to tell you how we have developed our distance learning offer, and how this will expand over the next few weeks by including a range of different learning tools to complement and develop the lessons set on the Google Classroom.

Firstly, I am delighted to announce that we have subscribed to GCSEPod, an award-winning digital content provider used by over 1,400 schools worldwide. Your child now has access to a library of over 6,000 'Pods,' which are 3-5-minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts. During the coming weeks, teachers will be setting your child work which includes the use of GCSEPod. This may take the form of assignments, which students can access and complete via the GCSEPod platform, or teachers may recommend specific Pods for students to watch at home to continue their learning. In addition, I ask that you encourage your child to make use of this resource independently.

All Springfield pupils are able to access this resource; there is plenty of content that is suitable for KS3 pupils, and for those pupils about to transition to KS4, there are specific materials aimed at supporting this. For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you will find lots more information and resources.

Your child will have received a personalised email containing a document with links to all the online resources that are available to them and have been recommended by their teachers. This was sent out at the start of the school closure and is updated regularly. Please ensure that they have accessed this and that they have logged onto the various different platforms which teachers are using when setting work. The latest update includes information for activating GCSEPod.

Secondly, teachers have been developing ways that they can deliver lessons using different methods, including the use of narrated screencasts, interactive quizzing and video. You can expect to see increasing examples of these lessons being set across the curriculum in order to support your child's learning and provide a rich, interactive experience.

Parents and pupils have asked us about the possibility of 'live lessons'. This is something we are working on currently although, as you will understand, we have to proceed carefully and ensure that teachers and pupils are fully safeguarded. We are investigating the use of live lessons and will keep you updated with our progress towards this.



We miss teaching our pupils and are really looking forward to seeing them return. In the meantime, our improving digital offer will ensure that all of our pupils can continue to make good progress. I would also like to remind you of my previous correspondence dated 29th April 2020 regarding the wide range of resources available to you and your child. Please follow the link below to a document containing these resources and guidance:

https://springfield.uk.net/images/files/documents/Home_Learning_Resources_and_Guidance.pdf

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Robertson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Fiona Robertson
Assistant Headteacher