



Dear Parents/Carers

1st April 2020

EASTER UPDATE

I hope you and your family are well at this challenging time.

Show My Homework/Home Learning:

I am pleased to see that your child is regularly logging in to Show My Homework (SMH). Our aim is to ensure that learning continues as normally as possible and that our young people do not fall behind their peers at this time. We understand that this has meant making certain changes at home. There has been work available on Show My Homework since 20th March 2020 and it will be updated every week. After Easter, hard copies of some resources will be sent out to students in addition to the work available online and staff will be setting assessments to track progress.

Daily Routine:

As this period of isolation continues, it is important that students maintain a strong routine studying for the duration of a normal school day. Clarity of what needs to be studied will be summarised for you to provide clarity after Easter when all students will have a weekly work plan, which will be shared with parents/carers by email.

Show My Homework:

This is the main way that teachers communicate instructions and share resources with students. Therefore:

- Students are expected to log in to Show My Homework each morning at 8.30am and check for updates throughout the day.
- Students are expected to upload work to Show My Homework once it has been completed.
- Students are expected to complete regular quizzes to show their understanding (these will be on SMHW or other relevant learning apps).
- Students may contact their teachers through SMHW notifications with any issues.

Login and completion of work on Show My Homework is monitored regularly by teachers and regular updates provided by phone. We would strongly encourage parents/carers to support their child's studies by logging in to Show My Homework regularly and talking to them about their learning. If you are having any difficulty with this, please see the help section below.

Screen Time:

We are aware that there is an increasing risk of too much screen time and have tried to set a balance of online tasks with offline tasks such as reading and writing. We would encourage students to take a break from all screens in the evenings and to have no screens in bedrooms at night.

IT Support:

- Submitting work online:
<https://help.teamsatchel.com/en/articles/2912000-submitting-my-work-online>
- Login and account settings:
<https://help.teamsatchel.com/en/collections/1695420-parents>
- Student login issues: For any student login issues do not hesitate to contact enquiries@sta.islington.sch.uk who will be able to assist you.

I thank you for your support with ensuring that your child accesses this however, a small number of students have not been accessing their home learning and these parents/carers have been written to separately.

Free School Meals:

Most parents/carers have been able to access our vouchers to support families on free school meals. I am aware that the government is now looking at securing this provision and I will write to you further on this when there is greater clarity.

Closing for Easter:

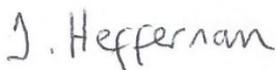
You will also be aware that you were asked to let the school know if you were a key worker or the parents/carers of a vulnerable child that might need a place during the Easter break. At the time of writing, after the deadline set, I have only received two requests and on that basis the school will close for the Easter break. I have sought support for this provision and will approach Islington as an alternative to keeping the school open for such limited numbers.

If you are a key worker or parent/carer of a vulnerable student and do seek a place during the Easter holidays, please write the following via email to enquiries@sta.islington.sch.uk confirming "I [Parent/Carer Name] request a place for my child [Student Name] [Form] during the Easter holidays. I am a key worker [state profession] or my child is a vulnerable student." I ask that this request is made by Friday 3rd April 2020, noon, so that provision can be sought.

The school will look to reopen on Tuesday 21st April 2020, for the children of key workers and identified vulnerable children.

I am aware that this a time of great uncertainty, especially when there are so many changes to our routines, including access to our places of worship. I am sure that this will be keenly felt as we approach Easter. Last Easter, Pope Francis spoke of the joy of the resurrection at Easter when he said "Let us pray for it for one another: the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit: the joy of Easter obedience, the joy of Easter witness, and the joy of Easter realism." None of us could have known at that time of what was to come in 2020. Of the present pandemic, Pope Francis has spoken with hope for those caught up in this 'unexpected storm' and said that "**We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other.**" I wish you the joy of Easter and the comfort of these words and of those around you.

Yours sincerely



Ms J Heffernan
EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER