

# West Hatch High School

## A Specialist Business and Enterprise School

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17<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable Easter, despite the restrictions we all face. Most importantly I hope that you and all your families are healthy and well. I realise that with 1300 students in our school the probability is that someone will have family members suffering from Covid-19 or other illnesses; can I please ask that parents keep the school informed, via their child's Head of House if there are any bereavements we should know about so that we are able to do what we can to support our students and families during and after the lockdown. There may be other reasons families are struggling as well, please use the school as a form of support and contact us if you feel we can help in any way, or just want to update us. Our vision is about being a family and that remains true whether we are in school or not.

As you will know, the lockdown has now been enforced for a further 3 weeks meaning the earliest we will return to school is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Please remember that the school will not be open to pupils immediately after the lockdown finishes, but I will outline our plans for opening within my next newsletter.

From this Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> April, we will once again be open for those who need us. This is only for those who have been invited in by the Pastoral Team, children of Key Workers or those with EHCP's. The school is open from 9am – 3pm.

**Can I please ask that you only send your child to school if you really need to, not because you just want to. We are in lockdown for a reason and every child that comes to school puts my staff at risk. If you can keep your child at home you should, this has been made very clear by the Government and includes if they are old enough to stay at home alone. Please do not use the school's service to get your child out of the house, my staff deserve to be safe and to be able to maintain the safety of their own families while supporting those families in the most need.**

Next week I will be writing my newsletter and as a result I want this letter to be as brief as possible. Could I ask however that parents email Mrs Chittock on [chittock@westhatch.net](mailto:chittock@westhatch.net) if they have anything that they'd like to share for my newsletter, preferably by next Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup> April). It would be nice to be able to celebrate our students' achievements either before lockdown or during. I'm happy for you to share any lockdown stories, pictures or videos you may have, or activities our students have been doing during lockdown; a parent once said to me the newsletter makes them feel part of the community and what better time to share these things than now!

I have received quite a few emails from parents with feedback about home learning. Please be assured we have taken on board all the feedback parents have given us and asked staff to adapt where possible. Clearly it is not possible to support the individual needs or desires of every student in the school but we are doing our very best to act on any feedback given. Apologies if I am not able to respond to every parent who contacts me but we are listening.

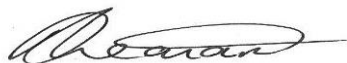
We will be setting work again from Monday and I have asked staff to put some form of assessment in place over the next week or so to check where the students are. Please remember not all staff check Show My Homework, so email them direct with any questions. Also, not all work needs to be sent back to staff, they will be putting in place regular assessments to check learning.



I will be giving more information within my newsletter at the end of next week but I just wanted to touch base with you before Monday.

Finally, I'd like to thank any of our community who are Key Workers, supporting the country's efforts in keeping everyone safe and well.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Leonard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Leonard  
Headteacher