



West Hatch High School

A Specialist Business and Enterprise School

Headteacher: Mr D Leonard BSc (Hons), Med
High Road, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 5BT

Tel: 020 8504 8216 Fax: 020 8559 2695

Email: admin@westhatch.net Website: www.westhatch.net

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I wanted to thank you all again for your support this half term and also thank you for asking some of your children to send 'thank a teacher' messages. It really meant a lot to the staff who have received them.

I'm writing to round up this half term but also let you know where we are with plans for the next half term. I hope that the catch up and well-being week has been useful in supporting your children with their workload and mental health. All schools are struggling with how much or how little work to set and the best way to do so; we are listening to feedback and adapting where we can. I have received a couple of requests from parents who want to receive more feedback from staff. I have not instructed staff to mark each piece of work but I have asked them to set regular assessment/check points which receive feedback. I have today gone back to staff and asked them to ensure this happens after the half term break.

Unfortunately, we are no closer to understanding what school will look like in the near or medium term for our students. The Prime Minister recently announced plans that all Year 10 and 12 students will receive face to face meetings/learning after the May break. The much promised guidance for schools has still not been published two weeks later and the noises I am hearing suggest that the Government is backing away from this pledge and we may not see pupils until the new academic year.

This is all speculation at present and I will inform parents immediately once we have been advised what we are required to do and have planned our systems and procedures. I want to assure you all that the Governors and I will not open the school until it is safe to do so for everyone in our community, and until we have received specific guidance from the Government regarding our expectations.

We will continue to work hard behind the scenes to ensure students are receiving meaningful work and that they are not falling behind. I hope parents can appreciate that it is impossible for schools to set work that meets the individual requirements of every student in the school. Parents must feel empowered to plan the work schedule for their children and judge when their children should stop. Please feedback to staff if your child is struggling with their work and where possible if you can communicate directly with the specific teachers.

Finally, I would like to say goodbye to Mrs Rodway who is leaving us this week to take up a new position. Mrs Rodway, who is an ex-student of the school, has been with us since 2007 within the MFL Department, including being Head of Department. She is passionate about doing her very best for her students and we are sad to see her go; we wish her the very best of luck for the future. While Mrs Rodway is leaving us I would like to welcome Ms Jebrin who has recently joined us in the Languages Department. She is an experienced, native Spanish teacher and a real asset to the school.

We have a small number of staff leaving this summer, but a significant number joining us as a result of our expansion. I have been working exceptionally hard in appointing staff ready for September and I'm pleased to say that we are fully staffed for the new academic year. I am delighted with the staff we have recruited and happy in the knowledge that your children will be well looked after and challenged in their learning. I will share with you our leavers and joiners before the end of this term.



Have a lovely bank holiday weekend and half term. I hope you and your families keep safe and well and I will be in contact with you after the half term break.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Leonard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Leonard
Headteacher