



Peterchurch, Herefordshire HR2 0SG - 01981 550 231 - admin@fairfield.hereford.sch.uk - Head Teacher: Mrs S L Gaston

14th April 2020

Dear parents and carers

Fairfield Live!

I hope you have all been able to enjoy some of the lovely weather we have had over the past few days, and that you and your families remain safe and well. Fairfield staff have been busy preparing for the launch of our live online learning next week, **beginning on the 20th April**. This will be for ALL students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

We have been very pleased that most of our students have been studying at home using the work set on the website. However, it is not a long-term solution and there is a limit to what students can be expected to do on their own without expert help and support from teachers. We want our students to be focused and engaged with their learning, and an important part of that is learning together with classmates and feeling part of the school community. We know that already lots of our students are missing their friends and the variety of school, different activities and a sense of achievement from completing tasks and moving forward in their learning, and we hope that online learning with their peers will help to address that.

Fairfield staff have been adapting their lessons so that they can be delivered online, via powerpoint, video clip and images with the teacher explaining and demonstrating as a kind of 'voiceover'. Students will not be permitted to use their cameras or microphones (unless asked to by the teacher) and they will not be able to see staff. Students will use the 'chat bar' at the side of the screen to ask questions and interact. The expectation will be that *all* our students will participate in a lesson and then be set work to be completed before the next lesson the following week. We have suggested everyone starts their day with a PE session with Joe Wicks! Students will then have one or occasionally two lessons each morning between 10am and 1pm.

We have piloted a few lessons and the feedback from students and staff has been extremely positive. We have made very careful consideration of how we can ensure the online safety of both staff and students; we have added an appendix about online learning and a risk assessment to our safeguarding policy, which can be accessed on our website. All lessons will be recorded and stored securely to provide an accurate transcript of the class, including any comments written by students, and we will also have a digital record of everyone participating in the lesson.

Many of the students are already familiar with Google Classroom. Attached to this email you will find:

- A form giving parent/carer permission for a student to participate in online lessons. Please click the following link to access the Online Lesson Agreement and complete immediately: (<https://forms.gle/jJ3kwssecf5HRs7DA>). If you have any issues accessing the agreement, please contact Mr Lloyd on olloyd@gvsc.org.uk
- A detailed timetable giving the codes needed to access lessons
- A detailed 'how to' guide to help you - we suggest you try to log on well in advance of the first lesson, in case there are any glitches!

Fairfield has put a considerable amount of time into considering all aspects of virtual learning and we really want it to be successful. However, we cannot do this without proactive support from parents and carers. In particular, it is critical that students understand that they MUST NOT pass on the class codes or information which would allow anyone else to access lessons. This is to safeguard the entire school community. Parents and carers also need to be aware of when lessons are taking place and ensure that their child is behaving appropriately. Any student who does not follow the rules of the virtual classroom in their entirety will be removed from the lesson, prevented from taking part in further lessons and will be subject to serious sanctions from school.

We do not yet know when we will be able to return to school. Our aim is to keep students moving forward with their learning; for that reason, we expect all students to participate. When school does return, staff will be continuing from where their online lessons left off - we will not be going back to March 20th! We are mindful of siblings and limited computer/ tablet access, so lessons have been spread out across the two-week timetable; if we find this is a successful way of working and there is likely to be a lengthy period before school returns, we may make some changes to the timetable in the coming weeks.

We do not want any student to miss out on their learning because they do not have equipment. We have already contacted a small number of students who we are aware have no online access at home, as we are able to offer some limited support. If you need help with online access, please contact me immediately via admin@fairfield.hereford.sch.uk

This is an exciting development for Fairfield and one which we hope will have significant benefits for our students, now and in the future. Please support us in making this work for everyone! The attached documents are very detailed and contain a lot of information; if anything is not clear then please ask Mr Lloyd (olloyd@gvsc.org.uk) or Mr Waterhouse (swaterhouse@gvsc.org.uk) who will be happy to help you. I would like to thank them and all of the Fairfield staff for the huge amount of work that has gone into this project and I hope that you will think it is as worthwhile as we do.

Best wishes

Sue Gaston.

Sue Gaston
Head Teacher