



June 1st 2020

Dear Parents & Carers of Students in Years 7, 8 & 9,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. When I wrote to you before Half Term, we were still waiting for Government Guidance how schools are expected to operate for the remainder of this academic year. We finally received that guidance during Half Term, with confirmation that secondary schools are expected to offer face to face support for Yr10 and Yr12 students only from **June 15th**, subject to the scientific advice that it is safe to do so at that time.

The Guidance makes clear that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be learning from home for the remainder of this half term, other than those who are accessing our Priority Provision (vulnerable students and children of critical workers). It is extremely important to us that we achieve as much as possible for and with our students so that they do not fall behind. We know how hard it can be to motivate students to keep going with school work from home ; we will do everything we can to support you and your children through these challenging times.

Below are some details of how we intend to support Yrs 7, 8 and 9 for the remainder of this academic year and I also attach a link to a very **important survey** that we need you to complete so we can properly plan our next steps: <https://bit.ly/2Mlx1Fn>

Virtual School Next Steps

All students in years 7, 8 and 9 will continue with their virtual school education programme. The survey attached asks you to identify any barriers to your child learning from home – we are especially keen to consider how we might help every student access their work and additional study support on-line.

We are introducing an extra focus on **reading** for all of our students so this vital part of their education journey improves while they are studying at home.

We believe that we can further support our students by extending **on-line study support**. This involves some video contact, audio contact and/or on-line live text chat support. The on-line study support will include regular contact from Form Tutors and subject staff. Our aim is to increase the help available so that students stay on track.

We use a safe environment called Microsoft Teams for on-line study support. Microsoft Teams uses students' school email address and works through our school platform, meeting all of our safeguarding requirements. To access Microsoft teams, students need a device with internet access – either a laptop or a phone. For video-conferencing the device needs a camera.

Students can participate in video-calls with or without a camera on, so they may just listen in to a study support or well-being session or they can choose to be visible on camera. All video-sessions and audio-sessions will be recorded by the member of staff for safety purposes.

The Parent/Carer survey asks you to indicate your agreement to your child participating in these sessions and includes a **Parent/Carer Virtual School Agreement** and our Protocol for On-Line Communication, which is attached to this letter. The agreement can be found on our website, using this link:

<http://www.colmers.bham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/Colmers-Virtual-School-Home-School-Agreement-June-2020.pdf>

On-Line Survey – Deadline 12pm Wednesday June 3rd

Please could you complete this on-line survey by **12pm Wednesday June 3rd**:

<https://tinyurl.com/ya7guhgw>

If you are unable to complete the survey on-line, please contact school's Main Reception for assistance and someone will take you through the survey over the phone.

As ever, it is vital we have up-to-date contact details for you, if your phone number or email address have changed, please do contact us as a matter of priority so we can keep in touch with you.

Thank you for your continued support during these most unusual times!

Yours sincerely,



Emma Leaman
Headteacher