

Thursday, 2nd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Please find **enclosed** a copy of a Newsletter and also Tesco vouchers to the value of £30. Given the very unusual circumstances we are all living through, the Department for Education asked schools whether or not they would consider providing support for young people deemed as vulnerable over the holiday period. Given that all our young people are considered vulnerable, as defined by government, then we have made the decision to provide vouchers to the value of a school meal for all of the holiday period. I do not know if other schools will do this but for our Trust we felt it was important that our support continued over what is a difficult time for everyone. After Easter and for the duration of the emergency we will move to online vouchers so we will need an email address for every household so we are able to send on vouchers electronically.

As you know the main public examinations during May/June have been cancelled this year, the last scheduled examination for BTEC Sport will take place on 3rd April 2020. We await guidance from the government as to exactly how grades will be awarded for our current year 11s. I am aware that some of our Year 11s have been undertaking additional work to support our evidence base in respect of their final grades, which will only be to their benefit. In the light of the guidance from government, that everyone should stay at home if at all possible. Year 11s will have their last day on 3 April. We will look at some kind of celebration event later in the year. After Easter Year 11s will still be able to access online learning and should they wish to can also access our post 16 site on Coffee Hall. If you want them to attend our post 16 provision after Easter, please can you contact Helen Shapter Wheeler, the Head of Centre, on Helen.ShapterWheeler@stephensontrustpost16centre.org.uk, to express an interest. From there we will look at putting together a package of support but we would ask that consideration is given to government guidance that the best place to be is at home.

Ordinarily I would now be wishing you a happy Easter break but given these strange times none of us will be able to get away for a break I fear. Schools in our Trust re-open on Monday, 20th April but the advice remains that staying at home is the safest option. If government advice changes over the holidays then we will be in touch over the period to inform you of any changes. Given our new safeguarding duties, we will keep in touch over the holiday period and if there are issues then you will have contact details for your particular centre. Please do not hesitate to use them should you feel the need.

Stay safe and take care

Regards,

Dr Neil Barrett
Executive Principal
Stephenson and Bridge Academies