



Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to update you on some matters relating to school, following the government announcements earlier in the week.

Whilst the road ahead is still uncertain for schools, we are beginning to plan for the partial re-opening of our school. It is looking probably this may only be for Year 10 students in the first instance, and probably later in the summer term. It is possible that we will not see key stage 3 students until the new academic year in September, a fact that I know will genuinely dishearten many students and staff. It would have been so wonderful to have seen everyone in school before the summer holidays started.

We have taken the decision to cancel Year 10 work experience this year, which normally takes place in the last week of term. Unsurprisingly a lot of businesses are saying they are no longer able to offer students a placement and, given the loss of curriculum time, we think it will be more important to maximise the amount of teacher-student contact time. We will look at ways in which we can support any students wishing to do work experience, either during a holiday or after their final exams in 2021 (possibly alongside the National Citizenship Award).

End of year assessments will take place for Year 10 in most subjects, but these may be completed at home prior to returning to school, rather than formal exams in school. There will be no end of year assessments for Year 7 and Year 8, and students in Year 9 have already done their exams earlier in the year.

Year 9 parent/carers/students will be contacted shortly about their GCSE option subjects. After half term there will be a shift in the work we expect Year 9 to complete – more details to follow. We are also reviewing expectations for Year 7 and Year 8 given we may be looking at a longer period of home-learning. Year 11 grades are being worked out by staff, ready for submission in June. We anticipate these will become available to students on Thursday 20th August (the original GCSE results day).

A couple of other things to note:

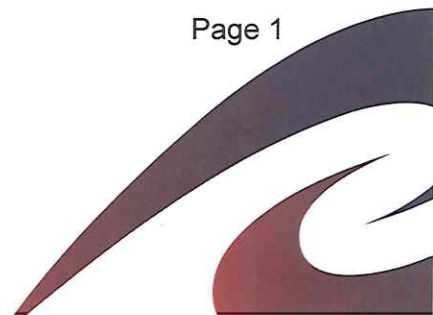
- All visits that were meant to take place this term have now been cancelled, and monies returned to parents/carers. (We are awaiting confirmation about ARTHOG (July 2020))
- We have also returned money held on Parent Pay (if more than £20) – we think this money is probably best kept with families.
- All schools have had problems with the Free School Meal voucher scheme. We had a really good home-grown system in the first couple of weeks, but then had to go over the national system. We received an apology from the DfE – hopefully this situation will improve.

We are very grateful for the work you are putting into fulfil your responsibility to support education at home. We know it isn't easy for all concerned and I think we are all itching to get back to normal. Unfortunately, it doesn't look likely that will be any time soon.

Headteacher: Alan Doust

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Contact and communication remain very important. We will be writing to Year 10 parents/carers/students in the next couple of weeks about our provisional plans to re-open, and keeping all parents/carers/students informed of developments through the Pulse and in future letters.

You can anticipate a phone call from a member of staff sometime over the next couple of weeks (it may have happened already!). We are endeavouring to speak to all students before half term. Please note that this is not a system of 'checking up', but genuinely asking students how they are doing. The caller will ring you first, and ask that you listen in to the conversation with your son/daughter.

We would like to reassure parents, carers, and students that we are here to help. As well through our normal channels, the Student Support team is on hand Monday to Friday every week to help parents and students through stressful times, be it work or friendship challenges. They can be contacted by emailing Sara.altinok@meole.co.uk or by ringing school.

Many thanks for your continued support, and all the best to you and your families.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Doust', written in a cursive style.

Alan Doust

Headteacher