

3rd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Closure and Easter Fortnight

I hope that you and your families are able to stay safe and healthy in these difficult times. Student health and well-being at this time is of the highest importance to us. In order to support a focus for our students, our teachers have been setting much work via a range of mediums. As already acknowledged, some of this has been a little overwhelming. Please remember that we are new to this style of working and, consequently, have gathered feedback from students and parents.

In response to this feedback we have decided to **close the virtual school from Friday 3rd April** (as well as the actual school (for particular groups only)) for the duration of the Easter fortnight. This means that Google classrooms will not be operating fully over the fortnight commencing 6th April. Teachers will not be chasing up work and will not be calling home or emailing parents about school work. The next work booklets for Year 7 – 9 students will not be published until Monday 20th April. It is likely that your child still has plenty of work from this last fortnight and they can use the Easter fortnight to catch up. They are welcome to submit work but will not receive feedback until we **re-open the virtual school on Monday 20th April**.

I hope that this fortnight will give your families an opportunity for a break from the work and to refocus on family activity.

During this very unsettling time for our students and their families, we believe it is more important than ever to protect our mental well-being. We are writing to inform you of an opportunity that MiSP (Mindfulness in Schools Project) have invited us, as a school community, to join.

MiSP are running daily online mindfulness practice called 'Sit Together'. These sessions are suitable for everyone including those who are complete beginners to mindfulness and offer participants a chance to have a daily pause, to refocus on how we can best take care of ourselves and, in turn, of others.

The sessions are going to run every weekday at 11.00am. Please click on the link: <https://mindfulnessinschools.org/misp-sit-together/> for details of how to join the session.

Many of our Year 7 and Year 8 students have already learnt about the Mindfulness in Schools Project through their PSHE lessons.

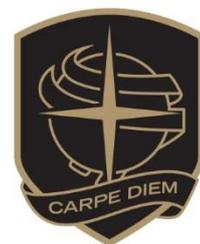
It is important for parents/carers to note that, although these sessions are suitable for children, any student who wishes to attend must be accompanied by an adult.

Support over the Easter Fortnight

If, during the Easter fortnight, you experience an urgent need regarding child safeguarding, we have set up a welfare line for you to be able to contact a member of staff. Please phone 07437 794201 (Larry Davis, Deputy Headteacher) or 07379 862150 (Sara Sharpe, Designated Safeguarding Lead).

Free School Meals and Contact Details

A small number of families who are entitled to Free School Meals have not been able to access the Department for Education's voucher system. This is most likely because the contact details we hold are not up to date. Please ensure that we have your correct



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residential address, email address and a mobile phone number. If you are having difficulties accessing the vouchers or wish to update your contact details, please email Larry Davis on larry.davis@southfieldsacademy.com or telephone 07437 794201.

Gratitude to Keyworkers

We want to acknowledge the outstanding work that all keyworkers, from nurses and supermarket workers to lorry drivers, are doing during this time. Please accept the thanks of our whole school community for what you are doing for the wider community. It will not be forgotten.

Thank you for your continued support in these unusual circumstances.

We wish you all the best.

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Valin
Principal



Wanda Golinska
Headteacher