



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Principal: Mrs Wendy Ainsworth



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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are continuing to navigate this new territory safely and well. Thank you for your continued communications with teaching and support staff to advise us on how your children are doing in these challenging times. It is always really nice to hear that they are doing well. I thought I would take this opportunity to check in with you all, advise you of what it looks like in College now and provide further advice on distance learning protocols.

Our College continues to be open for children of critical workers and those children identified as vulnerable. We have a small but steady cohort in attendance who participate in a number of activities to include baking, sport, arts and science etc. We follow a regular routine that also includes a period of time when they are logged on to complete learning tasks set by teachers. The small cohort enables us to maintain safety protocols such as social distancing, regular hand washing and use of sanitisers. The smaller use of areas also enables us to ensure ruthlessly high standards of cleaning. This version of 'Educare' is not quite the educational experience we were all trained for, but it has been genuinely delightful getting to know these students on a more personal level and help them maintain a routine through these remarkable times. We will continue to provide this service for as long as we are able to. Our staff are working on a rota, which means they are only in school once every 3 weeks, which is significantly reducing their chances of becoming ill or indeed passing on any infection to others. Of course, when they are not in school, they are still online, planning and enabling distance learning.

The government has made it clear that there are no immediate plans to reopen schools in the near future. What this looks like on our return is also a mystery at this point, we have assumed that it will be a staggered return and whatever happens, this will need to be carefully planned with staggered lunchtimes, reduced class sizes etc in order to continue to facilitate social distancing and measures to reduce the chances of infection. I am hopeful that when schools do reopen, we will be provided with sufficient time to plan how this happens and be able to communicate these measures to you in good time also. As always, we will continue to keep you updated.

As stated previously, we are very grateful for all your efforts in providing education at home. This was never going to be easy and holds many challenges. We are very aware that many homes will have one computer but more than child, some may not have IT access at all and that not all work may be accessible at all times. We have advised all teaching staff that they should not set the equivalent number of curriculum hours for their subjects – we do not expect children to be sat completing school work from 8.30 until 3pm each day. This is not practicable and furthermore, would not promote positive mental health. We do hope that children are accessing positive family experiences as well as school work to include a daily walk, gardening where accessible and other family activities. If students are struggling to complete all work set, they should complete what they are able to and not worry unduly about what they cannot. You as parents will be aware of whether sufficient school work is being completed and will be able to intervene when the demands of school work become too much. When



this is the case, the completion of Maths and English work will always be favourable as these core skills transfer to all other subject areas. You can also email teachers directly to advise of concerns. We will not sanction children on their return for incomplete work. There will be a huge variation of experience for all and we will be sensitive to this and ensure our planning enables all children to catch up and close gaps in learning as quickly as we are able to.

Further to this, the government has now launched a number of new initiatives to include the launch of Oak National Academy – An online learning platform with videoed lessons and resources and updates to BBC Bitesize, which now also includes daily Maths and English lessons. Having reviewed a sample of these, they have proven to be excellent resources and I have shared the details of these with staff, so that they can be incorporated in their planning. The website links should you wish to explore them for yourselves are;

<https://www.thenational.academy/> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6vpnr>

The government have also advised of their intention to provide those most in need with a laptop and/or a 4G router to connect to the internet. To be in receipt of this offer, the following criteria must be met:

They must not already have access to one, and must be in one of the following groups:

- Children with a social worker
- Care leavers
- Disadvantaged children in Year 10

We will be working through who this applies to and making the applications for the equipment as soon as the online portal goes live.

Please do stay in touch with us and continue to stay safe and well.

Kindest regards



Wendy Ainsworth
Principal