

27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### Coronavirus Update Information

I am writing to keep in touch and update you at the end of a unique and challenging week. Everyone will be trying to do their best to adjust to a different way of living and I am sure this has created some anxiety and concern for everyone, whatever their circumstances.

I am very grateful that families are following the national advice that:

***The principle that we are all working to is that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The Government is asking parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible – schools will remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.***

Families are helping enormously during this time by keeping children at home where possible. The government's advice over the last few days has made this very clear. Every person who can stay at home could be saving lives.

Our school has remained open through the week for the children of key workers and our most vulnerable families. I am sure that you will join me in thanking those staff who are supervising these students.

Should you be eligible and require access to that provision, can I please ask that you use the survey we have previously shared [Link to the key worker survey – click here](#) to indicate your need. This is especially important if your situation as a key worker or shift pattern has changed.

Our childcare provision in schools will remain open during the period that would have been the Easter holidays. [This is increasingly likely to include the bank holidays as we seek to support our key workers.](#) Again, please book in using the survey should you need access to that provision.

Those families who are eligible for Free School Meals should, by now, have received their vouchers or been contacted about how to access funds to help with the cost of food during this time. If you have not received any information, or have any queries, please contact [finance@cmatrust.net](mailto:finance@cmatrust.net) for advice. Should you believe you are now eligible, please also contact on the same email.

I know that many of you are adjusting to accessing learning activities and guidance online or remotely. We wrote to you earlier in the week with some guidance around what to expect and how to access the activities that teachers are setting. I hope that is providing you with some structure and proving helpful. We are continuing to review this process and find new ways to improve.

Students will be able to access and continue with the activities teachers have set for them over the Easter period, but there will be limited contact from teachers during that time, and families should not expect new activities to be set over, what would have been, the Easter holidays.

Please note that we will not be issuing any more reports home at this stage, including for Year 11 and Year 13, until we have further guidance on what the process of awarding grades in the summer will look like. Without this information it is not possible to give a meaningful end of course prediction so we will wait until this guidance is released, which we have been told to expect in April. Teachers will not be sharing the results of mock examinations at this time for the same reason. The latest government guidance on the summer exams [can be found here](#).

We are all adjusting to this period of national emergency. I am very proud of the way our students and staff have responded. It is very important that we continue to maintain contact with each other, and that we look out for the most vulnerable members of our community. I would encourage any students who are anxious or feel unsafe at this time to utilise the support available either by contacting staff or emailing [worried@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:worried@elycollege.co.uk)

Take care of yourselves, and of each other.

Yours faithfully



Richard Spencer  
Principal