Principals' Letter – Spring Term 2020
Week Ending 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We write this, hoping that this won't be our last newsletter of this academic year, but also having to be realistic about the situation that our country is now facing and the uncertainty of what lays ahead. Despite the last few weeks being incredibly intense, it is always a pleasure to come to work, being surrounded by such amazing people, whatever their age.

The prospect of not knowing when we may return has caused anxiety for many adults and students, having routines in place is so crucial for many people. Indeed, we are sure that many of you will also have your concerns and are feeling the impact personally, especially as circumstances are changing so rapidly. You should all have now received access to work for your young person, whether it be paper based or on-line. We will continue to communicate weekly and send regular updates to you as and when we receive new information and of course although school is 'closed' contact can still be made via email.

Today we have celebrated with Year 11s, to make the most of what could well be their last day, we have shared and created many memories. It was obviously disappointing that some of our young people couldn't join us because of the circumstances but they were in our thoughts. We are still unsure as to what lays ahead for them in terms of exam grades or whether they will be asked to do any type of assessment. So, we will continue to set work for everyone.

Year 11
Work will be set daily on SMHW. Students will need to log in each day to see what has been set by their staff.

Year 10
Revision materials have been provided for all students, both paper copies and available via the revision App. This was in preparation for the mocks scheduled after Easter. Students need to continue to follow this plan and log into SMHW every day. We will provide further information as to what kind of assessment may replace the mocks in the next couple of weeks.

Year 7, 8 and 9
Work will be set daily on SMHW. Students will need to log in each day to see what has been set by their staff. Here are some words of support as you work through these next few weeks of having your children your at home -

You might be inclined to create a minute by minute schedule for your kids. You have high hopes of hours of learning, including online activities, science experiments, and book reports. You'll limit technology until everything is done! But here's the thing...

Our kids are just as scared as we are right now. Our kids not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off of school for 4 weeks sounds awesome, they are probably picturing a fun time like summer break, not the reality of being trapped at home and not seeing their friends.

Over the coming weeks, you will see an increase in behavior issues with your kids. Whether it's anxiety, or anger, or protest that they can't do things normally - it will happen. You'll see more meltdowns, tantrums, and oppositional behavior in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What kids need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. And that might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule and love on your kids a bit more. Play outside and go on

Principals' Letter 25

walks. Bake cookies and paint pictures. Play board games and watch movies. Do a science experiment together or find virtual field trips of the zoo. Start a book and read together as a family. Snuggle under warm blankets and do nothing.

Don't worry about them regressing in school. Every single kid is in this boat and they all will be ok. When we are back in the classroom, we will all course correct and meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this! Don't pick fights with your kids because they don't want to do math. Don't scream at your kids for not following the schedule. Don't mandate 2 hours of learning time if they are resisting it.

If I can leave you with one thing, it's this: at the end of all of this, your kids' mental health will be more important than their academic skills. And how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those 4 weeks is long gone. So keep that in mind, every single day.

Letter to Care Homes: Over the last few days, the English department, have been getting students to write to local care homes to offer a sense of community back to those isolated from their families. Distribution of these letters will be sorted by staff and we hope they will bring comfort to those on their own at the moment.

Year 11 Post 16: If your child is in Year 11 and still needs help or advice with regards to making post 16 applications or their future career path, please contact Mrs Kay, Careers Adviser, j.kay@passmoresacademy.com. Students can also follow us on twitter @PACareersTeam.

Sports News: Some good news, we have just found out that **Charlie Nunn** came 111th in the worldwide CrossFit games. Well done Charlie!

Production of Starlight Express: Unfortunately, due to the current situation we have taken the sad decision to cancel this year's production of Starlight Express. If any member of the cast has ordered a t shirt, this money will be returned. Later in the year we will see if there is an opportunity to put on a showcase instead. If this is the case, more news will follow.

Year 10 Parents' Evening: This has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

Maths Problem of the week:

Which of the numbers below are multiples of 10? 30, 37, 307, 370, 3700	Which of the numbers below are multiples of 3? 57, 409, 147, 343	What is the difference between 4734 and 2809?

The sum of the 4 digit numbers ABCD and DCBB is a multiple of 10.
The digits A, B, C and D are consecutive integers
The number ABCD is a multiple of 3
Find the difference between the numbers ABCD and DCBB

A B C D
D C B B +
_____

Maths Solution from last week:

1. **Simplify** $\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{5}$ $2\sqrt{5}$

2. **Simplify** $a^4 \times a^2$ a^6

3. $1 \text{ cm}^2 = \ldots \text{mm}^2$ 100

4. Make x the subject $y = ax^2 + b$ $x = \sqrt{\dfrac{y-b}{a}}$

5. Calculate the area of a circle of radius 5 cm (in terms of π) $25\pi \text{ cm}^2$

Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard
Co-Principals of Passmores Academy