



13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

We really appreciate your feedback and more importantly the positivity from so many of you in support of how we are trying to provide the best continued education for all our young people, regardless of circumstance.

We understand that one way of working is not going to be right for everyone, but we have read all responses from the survey and tried to adapt the provision slightly to accommodate the different ways of studying. We are still of the opinion that these packs provide the students with the opportunity to be self-directed learners and to take ownership of what and when they learn, which is an invaluable life skill moving forward. Remember home school is not the same as being in school, two to three hours uninterrupted study a day is comparable to a day in school.

There were several questions raised within the survey which we hope to clarify below -

**Limited contact from teachers** – everyone should now have received a well-being phone call from someone within school. Staying in contact is really important for us as well as you, and we will continue to do this moving forward. SMHW continues to be the best place to discuss work, but teachers will also respond to emails (within school hours of course).

**Clarity on how much work needs to be done** – Ideally all work for English, maths and science should be completed. For the challenge passport students should try to complete tasks from every section with the aim of achieving the 500-point target. 4 weeks work = 20 school days = 2 – 3 challenges per day.

**Not having the structure provided by SMHW** – some families have created a visual timetable and are sticking to this each day. Students choose activities according to the lessons they would have that day. Some families are doing all of one subject before moving on. Whatever, you decide, have a routine and try to stick to it.

**On-line resources** – links have been included within the work packs to platforms such as Hegarty maths Century Tech, BBC Bitesize to support learning. We have also shared all information regarding a range of platforms for additional study if students so wish.

**Notifications in SMHW** – the work that you have received will also be shared within SMHW. This is to allow for contact between teacher and students to enable sharing of work and discussion, so you may experience an influx at the beginning of next week. We are in communication with the company to see if the notifications times can be changed slightly.

**Insufficient work** –Heads of Department have reflected upon this when designing the activities this time around. If you find yourself in a similar position again, make sure the work is being shared with the teacher for feedback, looking for ways to improve will increase the amount of time on any one activity. If your child is still in the same position, ask the teacher for more work, they will be more than happy to help or access additional on-line learning.

Don't forget to use the stamped addressed envelopes provided in the new packs, we are looking forward to receiving work and of course the Passport Challenge Points page so that we can share in what the young people have achieved during these past four weeks.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting. Despite the government announcements this week, there is still much uncertainty about the re-opening of secondary schools, and we will keep you as informed as possible as we endeavour to decipher the information. Of course, the safety of everyone will be paramount in any decision that we make.

Thank you for your continued support, keep safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard  
**Co-Principals of Passmores Academy**