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Cottingham High School
and Sixth Form College



4 May 2020

Dear parent(s)/carer(s)

We hope this latest update continues to find you and your families safe and well.

This week students in school have engaged with SAM Learning, yoga, line-dancing, cooking, gardening, bag-making and plenty of outdoor exercise. We've also seen some fantastic work sent in by our students, please check out our Facebook and twitter @Cottingham_High pages to see more.

Accessing Distance Learning Resources – All Students

We have also been pleased to see the numbers of students engaging with work through the **Teams** platform, and through email. The best provision can be offered when your child's teachers are able to share documents with your child through these approaches, so we request that your child accesses these in addition to SAM Learning and Hegarty Maths. A link to a video showing how to log-in to the school website to access email and the Teams platform has been linked here https://cottinghamhigh-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/wardle_a_cottinghamhigh_net/EUdQ-eT5tF1OvS6KTVLUyUgBOD0jrymOBEa_8ArE-R_2Rw?e=XLf7ae

It can alternatively be accessed by scanning this barcode with a camera on smartphone. It has also been emailed to all students.

As we emphasised when arrangements were first sent out for distance there will be software snags and unexpected barriers that at times affect communication streams and setting of work. All we would ask is that you get with staff if that is the case, but please bear in mind that many teachers will be also supporting their own families, or potentially be unwell. If you do not get a response from a particular teacher within three working days then please make contact through one of the other addresses provided later in this letter and we will endeavour to find a suitable solution.



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In some subject areas, a single staff member may be setting work for an entire year group to ensure consistency in what students are doing, but also to help manage workload for staff. Therefore, this person may not necessarily be your child's teacher. However, the work that they are setting will be appropriate to their situation so your child should complete that work, and ensure that it is submitted in the appropriate way for that subject.

We also recognise that home situations are changing, and at times there may be competition in the household for IT use or you may experience difficulty in accessing the internet. If this is an ongoing issue, **work packs** are being produced approximately every fortnight to mirror the work being set by teachers through Teams and email. Please contact the school office should you need one of these. The next set of packs are due to be available from Monday 11th May.



Rewards

As time progresses with distance learning, we would like to reward students who are showing great effort and resilience in completing tasks set, much as they would be rewarded in school through our PD system. Each week teachers will nominate students from each year group for special recognition, with postcards and prizes going to those drawn from the list by the Leadership Team. Therefore, please encourage your child to put in that extra effort wherever possible, and to share their efforts with their teacher or head of subject via email.

Y7-9 Lockdown Silver Linings

I think we can agree we are all living through an unprecedented event. With this in mind, we are launching a creative project for Key Stage 3 pupils inspired by the current 'lockdown' and social distancing situation. Although we may be limited in where we can go and who we can see, we still have the opportunity to express ourselves creatively. The project is entirely optional, and your child can complete as many or as few of the tasks as they wish. We hope that this will give us an opportunity to showcase the excellent creative talent we have at Cottingham High School and we hope to present all your work in an exhibition in the near future, upon our return to school.

Please look out for information which will be sent to your child's email account. We hope they enjoy completing these tasks and we look forward to seeing their creative endeavours.

STEM Competition – The Virtual Faraday Challenge

Each year the Institute of Engineering & Technology runs a competition involving some of our students. This year the competition has become a virtual one, and budding designers, entrepreneurs or engineers may wish to engage in this competition. It is open for young people aged 7-15 years old and can be done at home, in school, individually or as a group/family.

Based on a real-world problem, the Virtual Faraday Challenge brings together STEM subjects (science, design and technology, engineering and maths) in an engaging way and encourages the development of young people's problem solving and communication skills.

Your child/ren will be challenged to see if they can assist the work of Airbus in helping people around the world in times of need and work in the way engineers do in designing a new product. The best entries will receive a prize and may even feature on our website. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y9bbom9a> for more information.

Emotional Support & Wellbeing

We know the current situation can cause increased stress and anxiety within families. Please find attached some information about where you can find support for your child during this difficult time.

The Behaviour Team at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council have shared some resources which are aimed at supporting parents and children at home: the resources may not all be aimed at secondary school children, but you may find them helpful.

There is also a leaflet about a useful app called Think Ninja aimed at young people who are experiencing increased anxiety and stress.



The NHS commissioning group for East Yorkshire and NE Lincs have just launched a service for 11-25 year olds which provides online access to trained counsellors at kooth.com

Increased use of the internet can provide its own challenges so we also attach some information which may support you in monitoring your child's internet activity.

Thinkuknow is a fantastic website- try the link below: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

As always, do not hesitate to contact us if you have issues and need to speak with our child protection or pastoral teams. We will continue to do all that we can to support you.

Kind regards

The Leadership Team

Useful contacts/info

A few students have struggled to access Microsoft Teams – the biggest cause of this is the choice of web browser. Please use Google Chrome for effective operation.

Should your child need to contact a subject specialist, please use the email addresses below:

English – Englishteam@cottinghamhigh.net

Maths – mathsteam@cottinghamhigh.net

Science – scienceteam@cottinghamhigh.net

Languages/Sport – mflteam@cottinghamhigh.net

Music – musicteam@cottinghamhigh.net

Humanities – humanitiesteam@cottinghamhigh.net

Arts – artteam@cottinghamhigh.net

Technology – technologyteam@cottinghamhigh.net

Drama – dramateam@cottinghamhigh.net

As well as support from subject specialists, should you or your child require any pastoral support during this time, there is a dedicated pastoral email address HOY@cottinghamhigh.net to help deal with any concerns or queries, including where students require any emotional support. We will endeavour to respond in the same way as with subject support emails, but please be aware that this will also be monitored primarily during normal school hours.

Our staff are working hard to ensure that our students are supported both academically and emotionally through these difficult times. If for any reason you are unable to access the online platforms, please contact itsupport@cottinghamhigh.net

