

COVID-19 UPDATE
Stover Senior School

Dear Stover Parents and Pupils

I hope you are all staying healthy and keeping safe, in this strangest of times.

We are now into the third day of our enforced closure, so I thought it a good time to contact you to thank you for all your support, to check online learning is working and update you with some more detail about the educational provision, should the closure continue after the scheduled Easter holidays.

Our staff and pupils are currently working with the package of on-line learning that was created last week, to ensure all pupils were fully provisioned for this first week of school closure. This is giving everyone the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the systems, iron out any wrinkles, and crucially, set up for a more interactive, on-line approach, that we will adopt after the scheduled Easter holiday.

If there are any problems with the systems, codes or log-ins, please e-mail the ICT help desk (ICTHelpdesk@stover.co.uk) or your class teacher in the first instance and they will do their best to sort you out quickly.

Though the Government has not yet confirmed that the closure will continue into the summer term, it seems almost certain that it will; for how long, nobody knows at present.

As a result, we have been planning and testing systems to ensure that we can mirror our school provision across all the areas that our children enjoy, as closely as possible, when the Easter holiday concludes.

The result is a provision that will include:

- A full and normal structure for morning and afternoon registration for all of our pupils. This will ensure that they are “present at school”, ready for learning and also provide the usual safeguarding blanket for all.
- All the usual assemblies and group meetings (Key Stage Assemblies, House Assemblies and Form Time) will take place between 0830 and 0900.
- For period 1 to 8, pupils will follow their usual timetables (these have already been emailed to parents to provide structure for the current week). Teachers will log pupils into lessons and use Google Classroom and Google Meet as the key resources to enable real-time interactive discussion and assessment to take place, as it would in a physical classroom space. Teachers will use other e-resources to enhance pupils’ learning, again, as they usually do in the

physical classroom. “Homework” and assessment tasks will be set and marked through the Google Suite, so fully informed and relevant feedback can be given to pupils to inform future learning and to allow for meaningful feedback for parents, to mirror the normal reporting structures.

This provision will cover the entire curriculum from Chemistry and French through to Home Economics and PE. Practical subjects will strive to provide fruitful activities, though some may require support at home. PSHE will also be provided as part of the curriculum by the form tutors.

- Counselling, mentoring and any specific health input will continue as normal and the staff involved will contact the pupils and families to ensure that a time is set aside within the timetable.
- Many of the peripatetic teachers will continue to be offering their music lessons, LAMDA lessons and they will be in touch with you directly.
- Parents will be able to e-mail teachers and pastoral support staff as in the usual term time, with any queries that they might have.
- Lunch and break times should be adhered to, as they allow the pupils important down-time for the brain, enabling the next episode of learning to be effective.
- We are working at this stage to ensure that some of the major activities will continue to be provided for, such as CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh’s award. Of course, with lock-down, the expedition elements of both, will not be possible.

It is important to us that your child or children, continue to be individually catered for in a responsive manner, by staff who know them well and understand their talents and challenges, both in the academic and pastoral spheres. This is the essence of Stover; the staff will work incredibly hard, in an unfamiliar medium, to ensure the effective on-going education of your children. As you know, they always go the extra mile – Nurture, Inspire and Prepare.

I am extremely proud of the preparatory work my staff have put into providing learning for this week and preparing for after Easter. There has been a real pulling together and sharing of great ideas and practice. In addition, they have stepped up to provide the necessary child care provision for our key worker families too. I thank them for their dedication. Also, a big well done to our pupils; it is obvious from direct, parental and staff feedback, that they are really trying hard to engage with a new way of learning.

This is an incredibly difficult time for everyone, in respect of both your work life, your family circumstance. I understand that there are significant financial uncertainties for everyone, and would urge anyone who is feeling overwhelmed, to engage with the finance department and Mr Jenkins, the Bursar if you need to.

Please do stay safe on line. Use social media effectively as a counter to the “isolation” we are all experiencing; group chats are a great way to connect, play and fuel your well-being at this time. Most importantly, follow the guidelines and stay safe and healthy.

Of course, we will continue to update you with regard to any salient information that might affect the school or education of our pupils, as soon as the Government gives us anything concrete.

Together, we, the Stover family, will get through this and come out stronger.

Kindest regards and best wishes,

Richard Notman

Headmaster

Stover School