



Monmouth School for Boys

A Haberdashers' School

From the Headmaster **Dr Andrew Daniel** BSc, MEd, PhD

20 April 2020

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are well, and that you have managed to have as good an Easter as possible in the circumstances.

Over the Easter our staff have been working carefully to further develop our home learning provision, and I am writing to provide you with another overview of this for Summer term. I hope that you and your son have had an opportunity to look at Haberdashers' Monmouth Online (<https://www.habsmonmouth.org/online/introduction/>), which provides an overview of teaching and learning arrangements, pastoral support and care, and enrichment opportunities.

Teaching and learning

We will be continuing to use Microsoft Teams as the main platform for teaching and learning, and the opportunity to trial our systems in the week before Easter was very helpful: teachers delivered lessons through Teams, using a wide range of teaching technologies, and students submitted much excellent work. We showcased some of the work in our newsletter just before half term, and we are very pleased in general with the way that your sons have adapted to home learning.

It is essential that your son continues to work using a clear structure to the day. We advise that whenever possible, your son should access lessons at home using his normal daily timetable. We will be expecting your son to submit work to schedules set by teachers, and will be grateful for your support in reinforcing this. Over the course of the Summer term, these routines for working and submitting work are critical so that your son can continue to make strong academic progress, and then start the new academic year, in September, from a position of strength.

I have written separately to Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents to explain arrangements for the award of GCSE and A level grades. I do appreciate the difficulties of the situation for these students. However, I would like to reiterate my advice that students should continue to work on their examination materials, following instructions and advice provided by their teachers. This is essential so that students are well prepared for any potential exams in the Michaelmas term. We will also be providing resources for Year 11 students so that they can undertake effective preparation for A level study, as detailed in my earlier letter.

Pastoral support and care

Your son's tutor and housemaster will be maintaining regular contact with your son, to offer support with home learning arrangements, and to offer pastoral care. They will also discuss academic enrichment opportunities, as detailed below; these are particularly important opportunities for Year 11 and Year 13 students.

We will be preparing regular virtual whole school assemblies this term; a number of staff, senior students and I will be preparing assemblies by video in time for the usual Monday morning assembly. I hope that these are helpful for your son to retain some connection to our whole school this term.

Enrichment opportunities

On Haberdashers' Monmouth Online we have compiled a huge list of exciting enrichment opportunities. With creative thinking and inspiration we believe that students can turn home learning to their advantage. There are many enrichment courses of outstanding quality, and a number of students have already signed up to learn a new skill. In order to practice what I preach, I have just completed the 'Machine Learning' course on 'Coursera' (details are in Haberdashers' Monmouth Online). This is taught by one of the world's top experts in Artificial Intelligence, a professor at Stanford University, California. A number of our students are already working on this and similar courses.

These enrichment opportunities are particularly beneficial for Year 11 and Year 13, to retain their academic motivation and to enhance their academic profiles in creative ways. We have asked tutors of Year 11 and Year 13 to contact their tutees to discuss academic enrichment for your sons.

Although this Summer term will be very different to normal, in Monmouth School for Boys we are confident that we have created an excellent programme of education, as outlined above, and I am sure that your son will apply himself to these new opportunities with his usual energy and enthusiasm. We will continue to produce our usual regular newsletters to keep you informed of the good news in school.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' at the beginning.