



Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

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School closure due to coronavirus – Summer Term Updates

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you are aware all schools currently remain closed to the majority of children during the current situation. We will keep you informed of any developments via email and text message. Please make sure you update your contact details if they change. You can do this on your ParentMail online account or by emailing enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

GCSE, BTEC and A Level Examination Results

We are continuing to update the parents and carers of Year 11 and 13 students when any new guidance becomes available. In the meantime, we urge all students to understand that by continuing to study from home during school closures places them in the best possible position to continue their studies.

It has been now confirmed that all students nationally will receive their examination results in August. **Year 13 (A Level and L3 BTEC) on Thursday 13th August and Year 11 (GCSE and BTEC) on Thursday 20th August.** Further details will be sent in the coming weeks.

Educational arrangements

We appreciate that acclimatising to working from home is a challenge for all families and it is important that students get into a good routine with this. They will now be getting used to the type of work being set by their teachers and it is important they see the summer term as a fresh start, if they have not yet been able to get into a good working pattern. More and more students are completing their online learning and it is, therefore, important that your child does not fall behind.

We recommend students spend approximately 3 hours each day on schoolwork, split into small manageable chunks of time of no more than 30-45 minutes without a break. You and your child may already have a daily routine that is working well for you, so if you have, well done and please keep it going. If, however, your child has struggled to keep to a routine you may find the attached timetable a useful way for your child to plan their days following the subject timetable that they would in follow in school.

All work will be set for students via Show My Homework (SMHW) <https://hillcrest.satchelone.com/school/home> this can be accessed via a smart phone, tablet or computer. If your child has any problems accessing SMHW please email enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk and a member of staff will be in contact to support you. We will also send a short guide on using SMHW for parents and carers later this week.

Students can access their individual work by logging in or can search for their class assignments on the open access version of the site.

1. The work set will be a mixture of assignments and some online learning e.g. Hegerty, Seneca and Active learn.

'Pupils' conduct is excellent. Around the School and in lessons, pupils are courteous and confident.'
'Strong ambition for improving outcomes for all pupils has led to good examination results.'
(Ofsted 2017)

2. Students should also use their Knowledge Organisers to self-quiz for an hour each day (split into three 20-minute slots).
3. Students should also continue to read as much as possible.
4. Relax and enjoy family time.
5. If they want something fun and interesting to do, they can explore the 'remote learning' page ideas on the school website, which can be accessed from the 'news' section or the 'students' section.

Student Illness/Injury

If your child is unable to access the learning set on SMHW due to illness/injury and are unable to complete work, please use your own judgement to decide how much of the work they have missed can be completed once they are well again.

Student well-being

The impact of self-isolation on mental well-being has been widely covered in the media. There are a number of resources available on the school website together with contact numbers of agencies who can offer support. The link to the Anna Freud Centre for children and Families is very useful <https://www.annafreud.org/>
The NSPCC has also created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this difficult time. Topics include:

- Talking to a child worried about coronavirus
- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour

The advice can be found on the NSPCC website here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

During the school closure period if you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child please email safeguarding@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk or call 07538 245067 or contact Children's Advice & Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888.

Free School Meal Vouchers

For the weeks commencing 23rd March 2020 and 30th March 2020 the school have sent all students who are eligible to receive Free School Meals an Asda voucher via email from info@parentmail.co.uk If you have not received an email from Hillcrest school/ParentMail - please check your JUNK or Clutter folder and ensure the email is added to your email safe list.

The school are now using the Department for Education's national school meal voucher scheme and you will soon receive two emails from Edenred with a link to click on and you can choose which supermarket voucher you would like (Sainsburys, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose, M&S Food) These two emails cover Free School Meals vouchers for the 2 weeks of the Easter Holidays and also for the week commencing 20th April 2020 and 27th April 2020. Please note we have placed an order for the vouchers to be sent to you, however we are aware that there is a delay in Edenred sending out the free school meals, they will be sent to you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding Free School Meals please email enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

School communication

It is extremely important that we have an up to date email address and contact telephone number for you so that we can send you texts and emails. Please ensure you update your contact details on www.parentmail.co.uk or let us know any changes in your contact details at enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Thank you for your support in this matter. We will continue to do all we can to support you and your child through this period. Please take good care of yourselves. We very much look forward to seeing our students back in school as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. A. Davies', written in black ink.

Ms J. A. Davies
Headteacher