



Dear Parents,

Friday 22nd May 2020

There is a great spirit of altruism at the moment – the way that Sir Tom Moore has gripped the nation shows that – and it is excellent to see the LRGS family playing its part: fundraising, helping neighbours, volunteering, collecting for foodbanks.

It has also been excellent to see pupils' engagement in wider activities - from **Chess Club** to the **CCF**; **Cricket** skills to **Strava**; **Whewell Society** to the **Parliament Ambassadors** with Cat Smith MP. We have more plans emerging for whole school activities in the second half of term – watch this space! I hope that half term will be a chance for our children to step away from their laptops and get lots of **exercise** and **fresh air**.



Year 10 and the Lower Sixth



The government announced two weeks ago that “secondary schools should prepare for some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils, in support of their continued remote learning.” However, we are still waiting for any detailed guidance to follow about this. It now appears that the government will probably **not** want secondary schools to open soon to large numbers of students.

If possible, we will be checking in with some students in school to support their remote learning. LRGS has been open for a few keyworkers' children and staff for the past two months, and we will build carefully on that positive experience. We do not expect to open to more pupils in other year groups before September.

Boarding

Boarders are the heart of the school, and LRGS is quiet without them! The Department for Education has just begun to share its guidance on re-opening boarding, and we are also closely following advice from the Boarding Schools Association. We will share full details of our health measures and protocols with boarding parents well in advance of September re-opening, so that parents can take every reassurance from the measures in place.

Assessment Weeks – Year 10 and Lower Sixth

Lower Sixth and Year 10 students should all now be aware of their assessment weeks: **Lower Sixth from 8th June**; **Year 10 from 15th June**. These are progress checkpoints, not exams. Pupils in other years may well have some individual subject tests, but they will not have an assessment week.

Reports

We plan to write full subject reports for Year 10 and the Lower Sixth in the second half of term. We will not be reporting any grades. We will send pastoral reports home for Years 7, 8 and 9 towards the end of term.

Excellence is the next five minutes

In these imperfect times, I have been encouraged by this thought from the writer Tom Peters:

“Excellence is not an aspiration. Excellence is your next email. Excellence is a smile. Excellence is bringing flowers to work on a dreary winter morning. Excellence is the essence of short-termism. Excellence is the next 5 minutes – or it is nothing at all.” We'll keep going - five minutes at a time!

With very best wishes for half term ~ Dr C.J. Pyle

 @LRGSLancaster #LRGStogether



Parallel Histories debates with schools in Ireland & France



Happy 90th birthday to Mr Douglas Cameron