



24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update 9

Although families across the country are in the midst of major adjustments to their everyday lives, the past forty eight hours have been a quieter time for the high school. This evening I am, by and large, reporting on activities rather than announcing new arrangements.

Supporting key workers

In the event, only a handful of families have taken up the possibility of sending their children into the school during the working day. It is good that so many of you have been able to make alternative arrangements, for there is no doubt that it is safer to avoid the mixing which would be inevitable were our buildings heavily used.

Students receiving free school meals

In a recent letter I set out the scheme which we have negotiated with Morrison's. Vouchers covering the period up to the end of term were sent out yesterday by first class post. If you are involved in the scheme you should have received your vouchers this morning. (Others may arrive tomorrow morning.)

Staff present at the high school

We are doing our best to minimise use of our buildings. The cleaners, who even in normal times work independently of each other, are carrying out a thorough clean of their areas. Once that has been finished the site team will close that building down.

Now that there are so few people using the site, it has become sensible to close the kitchen. Perishable supplies that cannot be frozen or preserved have gone to a good cause. The school reception will remain open.

During normal school hours I expect to be on the site, together with two teachers and a teaching assistant. The remainder of the teaching staff, provided that they are well are, however, available by email in the normal way.

Safeguarding

As you will have read in a previous letter we have a team of staff who specialise in keeping our students safe. They are:

Jamie Broughton	Broughtonjd@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk
Gemma Lloyd Davies	Lloydaviesgl@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk
Andrew Ward	Wardam@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk
Yvonne Hemming	HemmingY@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk

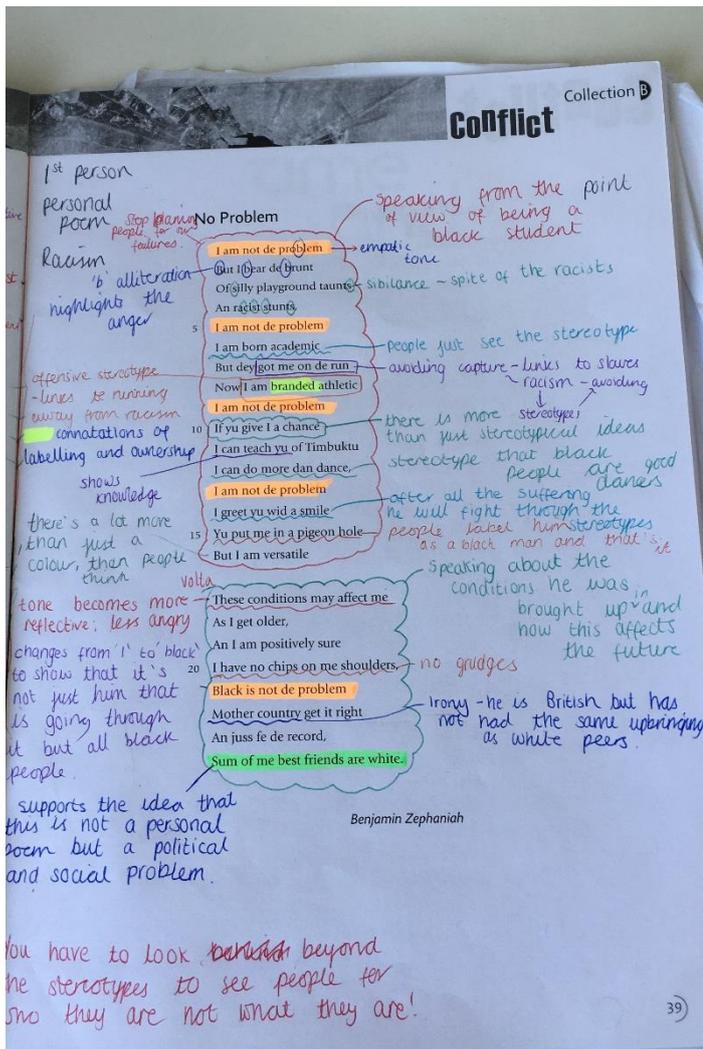
Please contact one of them if you have reason to be concerned.

Students who are working at home

Although it is very early days I do know that many staff are encouraged by the way students are using online working. I realise that it does put more responsibility on to parents and carers. Thank you for accepting this additional role. I shall always be interested to hear a parent's perspective on how this is working

I am also hoping to put together some form of bulletin to illustrate what our students are achieving in the face of these difficulties. Here, to open the account, are two early examples

The annotated poem was sent to Mr Stark by Emma Richardson who is in Year 10 and Bulman house. On the right you can see Jayden Dorans (Year 9, Parks House) completing his D and T assignment.



Additional online resources

I also thought it would be useful to share some other resources which you might find helpful. These are:

- Parental fact Sheet about Supporting Learning At Home (attached).
- A PowerPoint presentation sent to me by Miss Lapsley which gives some excellent advice about maintaining good mental health in these potentially very stressful times (attached).



- Audible are allowing access to some children's stories free of charge. This is the link: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>
- There are some online PE lessons with Joe Wicks which have been recommended: <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/health/familyhealth/joe-wicks-is-launching-live-daily-pe-lessons-for-kids-off-school/ar-BB11rRR7?li=AAJt1k3&ocid=mailsignout>
- The British Sign Language organisation is allowing free training for the under 18s: <https://www.british-sign.co.uk/coronavirus-crisis/>

If you come across any other links or resources that other parents may find useful, please do let me know and I will share them in the next letter.

Online safety

Along with the wealth of material which the Internet offers to our students, there are also risks. Please do remember that almost every day young people are exploited online. You might remember that we have subscribed to an online training package especially designed to inform and support parents. The details of this are at the foot of this letter. The enrolment code is dshs19.

Finally

During these demanding days very many people have gone the extra mile in helping to make the new arrangements work. My thanks are due to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Waters



ONLINE SAFETY FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Enhance your awareness of how to reduce the online risks to your child.

70% OF PEOPLE AGED 13-22 HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF ONLINE BULLYING

www.onlinesafetyalliance.org

40% OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN SEXTING ACCORDING TO SOME MEASURES

NSPCC

UP TO 80,000 PEOPLE IN THE UK PRESENT SOME KIND OF SEXUAL THREAT TO CHILDREN ONLINE

National Crime Agency, September 2018



The rise of digital technologies has seen children and parents / carers facing challenges not faced by previous generations. It is essential that schools and families are aware of the risks involved and the actions that can be taken to reduce these risks.

To enhance your knowledge of the risks children face and how you can help them to deal with these challenges, your child's school has arranged for you to have access to access OSA online safety training for parents.

Training includes:

- Social media management
- Online risks to children
- Keeping children safe

Support
safeguarding
procedures in your
child's school

The training, completed online, should take up to an hour to complete but does not need to be completed in one sitting.

How to complete the training

- Go online and visit <https://certificate.onlinesafetyalliance.org/login/>
- Select to log in with either Microsoft or Google. If you do not have an account with either of these, you can select the Google option and then select 'Create account'.
- Once logged in, select 'Courses' and then 'Online Safety for Parents Certification'.
- You will need to enter an enrolment code – this will be provided by your school.
- Work through the three presentations and two on-screen assessment to complete the course.



Online Safety for Parents and Carers
www.onlinesafetyalliance.org