



Monday 30 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Coronavirus update

As we enter the second week of the vast majority of families being asked to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and help to save lives I thought that I would touch base and provide a couple of updates of where we are now.

Nene Education Trust, of which Manor School is a part, are continuing to provide education for the children of key workers as well as those students who require it who have an EHCP or are looked after. I had the privilege of running this provision, which has now moved to Windmill Primary School, last week. During the week I was struck by the resilience of the children as well as the dedication and commitment of the staff. The atmosphere was purposeful and fun with health, wellbeing and safety being the main priority.

In addition, we continue to provide pack up meals for free school meal students which we bus around to the villages while we wait for the government voucher scheme to come online. It is not possible for us to facilitate orders to individual addresses where individuals or families are self-isolating, so we would ask that you make arrangements for someone to pick up your lunch(es) for you from the pre-arranged pick up points.

I also recognise that many of you, like us in schools, are having to make significant adjustments to your lives as you create your new 'normal'. For many, this will also include creating your own provision at home to aid home learning. There has been a lot of coverage in the media and on social media about this in the past week and so I wanted to provide some clarity regarding our expectations at Manor School.

Firstly, it is important to recognise you are not expected to provide a school and you are not a teacher. This is your home and your child/ren. There is an important distinction between school and home and the role of a teacher and that of a parent or carer.

As a parent of teenagers myself, I am sensitive to the anxieties associated with ensuring that our children do not fall behind and continue to make progress. I must reiterate that health, wellbeing and positive relationships are the most important aspects at this time and our energies must be focused in these areas.

The reality is that there will be huge differences for households, local areas and at a national level depending on the contexts within which we exist. In the future, as things start to return to normality, the government will be working closely with local authorities, education specialists, Trusts and schools to address the gaps and ensure that students are not left behind when they return to school.

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We are currently in this situation for an undetermined period, so it is crucial that we pace ourselves in order to maintain positive relationships. You obviously know your children well. Sticking to a school-style structured timetable may be useful for some whilst for others it will be more difficult.

Therefore, flexibility and adaptability will be key – please do whatever is necessary to maintain positive relationships and remember it is not a competition!

Therefore, at Manor we advocate a flexible approach whereby home learning is part of a varied diet that may include elements of focused time, quiet time, movement and activity, down time and screen time as well as any of the other things you do as a family.

Our home learning approach is designed to facilitate this, adding flexibility by providing some structure and plenty of resources without being overly prescriptive or rigid. We will of course continue to provide lots of resources via our website that students can access while they are at home and we have made staff available as per the timetable to help facilitate questions that students may have. There are, of course, lots of additional resources available online which we will continue to collate and signpost via our website.

With health, wellbeing and safety at the top of the agenda, it is crucial that as students are accessing more and more online material, that we remind them to stay safe online. Unsupervised and unmonitored screen time can present undesirable people with the opportunities they have been waiting for. There are many online safeguarding tips and information helping to explain Covid-19 to our younger students also available via our website under Covid-19 information.

Whilst the weeks and months that follow will inevitably provide some challenges, it is also an excellent opportunity to reconnect. We would encourage you to cherish this time together, talk to each and do things together. On the following page we have established some basic principles for home learning as well as some answers to some frequently asked questions that we have received this week.

Mr Bateman shared a video last week regarding the latest information for examination students in Year 11 and 13. We will continue to provide further updates for examination students as and when we get them. In the meantime, we are encouraging you to keep completing and submitting work to help inform any grades that we are asked to enter.

Thank you all so much for your continued support at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Davenport'.

Jay Davenport

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### Home learning Principles:

- The aim of the home learning is to provide support to yourself as parents/carers. We are trying to provide a variety of tasks that enable you to review, revise and embed learning.
- Please do not put yourself under pressure to complete all of the tasks, the aim is to simply provide enough for those of you who want to do more but nobody will be judging anybody on how much is done.
- Build the work we have set around a wide variety of activities which may include physical exercise, reading, creativity, cooking, gardening or simply relaxing, watching films, chatting with each other as a family.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Questions:	Answers:
I cannot log onto my Manor School email account	Email <a href="mailto:homelearning@manor.school">homelearning@manor.school</a>
I am struggling with my home learning tasks	If you are unsure email the subject specific emails address which are displayed on the home learning subject specific page under each subject.
No one is responding to my email after I have emailed from my personal account.	We will only respond regarding your schoolwork from your Manor School email accounts. If you can't remember login details email <a href="mailto:homelearning@manor.school">homelearning@manor.school</a>
Is there any additional support for my child's Maths and science?	All students have been given access to Blutick for maths and Tassomai for science. These platforms are independent, student led websites that students can make use of. Login details have been shared on ShowMyHomework.
How can I support alongside the tasks that have been set?	There are additional websites, links, online reading, non - screen activities to do at home.
What is the home learning timetable?	The home learning timetable is to help provide some structure and support. Members of each department is available at this point during term time to provide any feedback. Please email the subject specific email address.
Will all my work have feedback provided?	Members of staff will acknowledge they have received the work. Some pieces may require some specific feedback when required but it is not expected that all staff will provide feedback on students work.