

Dear Parents/carers,

CV19 daily update (Issue 9 – Tuesday 24th March 2020 – 12.00pm)



Thank you to all of the comments from yesterday about how the VLC is operating. We always welcome feedback so please keep letting us know how it is going at your end.

We have a very small number of children on site today and with the notification of lock down, it might be that schools are told to reconsider how to support these vulnerable children. There will be just a small number of senior staff who will physically come into school on rotation to support these children, otherwise, everyone is at home and safe.

How best to support children learning from home

The information below is from the *Education Endowment Foundation* who oversee research in education. This extract is about how schools can best work with parents to support children's learning. I think this will be useful to us all at this difficult time.

Schools don't just educate pupils, they care for them in a whole range of ways – feeding, safeguarding, enriching – and, though the whole sector will do its best to support those families least able to cope, there will be challenges to reach all that need help.

Of course, this is much easier said than done. It is very hard to reproduce the crucial learning relationships between teachers and pupils that exist in the classroom whilst working remotely.

As the schools involved in the Education Endowment Foundation's research projects have found, it is much more difficult than simply providing children with a set of materials or videos and letting them get on with it. To be effective, online learning requires on-going involvement from teachers, focusing particularly on the most disadvantaged.

It is also essential that parents have advice about their role. This isn't about parents replacing the teacher. It's about encouraging parents to help their children create regular routines and study habits, offering practical steps to take – and above all communicating with parents effectively over the coming months.

The EEF has published a number of relevant guidance reports – in particular, [Working with Parents to Support Children's Learning](#) – which have a lot of relevant advice on this. It highlights, for example, the use that many evidence-based programmes make of weekly text messages which can prompt conversations about learning at home and provide parents with tips or information about their children's learning.

So, we will regularly review the VLC and adjust over the coming weeks to maintain momentum and interest. As the EEF say, REGULAR ROUTINES AND STUDY HABITS are a key aspect of working remotely, and whilst this might be hard to form, it will pay off. I remember when we were potty-training our own children (many years ago), one of the most useful things was the large white-board on the fridge door charting the progress made each day of achievements (or not!). This might work with study routines at home????

Physical Education – keeping your child(ren) fit and healthy

The PE faculty has set up a google sheet for every all KS3 classes. Students complete activities that have suggested or their own that can be added to the sheet. A points system then allocates them points depending on the type of activity and duration of this, before ranking them in a league table. This has been set this up to run the course of this week and given students 4 movement slots, however many of them have already completed this after just one day! They will add more.

In lots of Google classrooms students have then been adding evidence of this, including photos of them completing workouts, videos of them on their exercise bikes and screenshots of apps like strava that detail energy expenditure etc.

The PE staff are really pleased that students are engaging with this and keeping active. The fact that the PM is still allowing (for today, at least) exercise, demonstrates the importance of this and we are stating this with our classes so they can see the benefit of it and one of our last freedoms at present.

KS4 and 5 so far have been theory lessons using a mix of Google meet and Classroom activities so far.

Communications

There will be some key information for all families, and some for specific groups. In order to keep communications effective and efficient, ALL KEY INFORMATION will be notified through this newsletter so that it is in one place. There may also be direct communication with groups of students (such as the sixth form and year 11). Please skim over anything that is not directly relevant to your circumstances.

A few of the comments that came in yesterday

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the school and all the teachers in the efforts and speed in getting virtual learning set up for pupils. My children in years 7, 10 and 12 have been really anxious but found the assemblies, comms and general approach reassuring and clear. They have done a full school day today which has allowed us to continue to work from home. We are incredibly grateful to the school and leadership teams for making this happen as such a difficult time for everyone - please pass on our thanks to all concerned

I just wanted to drop the school a quick note to say how impressed I was by the distance learning provided for both my children today. The teachers all seemed to be very well organised and lessons started promptly, with a range of activities provided.

I wanted to say thank you to all at Sandringham for the astonishing team effort that has clearly gone into the planning and delivery of lessons. I am blown away.

Thank you for everything you are doing to ensure that your students continue to receive a first class education - it is appreciated - particularly at a time when everyone is facing such uncertainty.

Thank you for all the fantastic work you have done to support the children through this difficult time. We are extremely impressed with the way in which you have handled this process and facilitated the transition to

remote learning for the majority of children while at the same time putting provisions in place to support the children of key workers. Remote learning worked seamlessly today for both children. Please extend our thanks to all the teachers and support staff.

Well done to all the staff for being so organised and providing 5 lessons for my son on the first day. The amount of content seemed just right to keep him stimulated but not overloaded. We really appreciate the challenge for everyone. Thank you so much

It seems that overall the VLC was a success, and that students had a routine and benefitted from the lesson activities. Staff are following our Schemes of Learning which means there will be continuity with what they would have been studying should we still be in school. There will be a review at the end of Phase 1 to see how well this has worked and prepare for the next phase after the Easter break.

Materials for engaging with learning

Over the coming weeks you may find that your son/daughter fill up one or more of their exercise books. If this is the case, we would ask for parents/carers to purchase new exercise books via online retailers wherever possible. An alternative is for students to make use of lined or squared paper which could then be stuck into books at a later date. **For students in receipt of free school meals**, we are able to send out materials via post. We would ask for you to send a request to Louise Turner (Pupil Premium Coordinator) via email louise.turner@sandringham.herts.sch.uk. We aim to process requests as quickly as possible

Autism

To support children with communication and autism needs and their families during the period of school closures, the Specialist Advisory Teachers will be extending the hours of their telephone advice line from Monday 23rd March until the schools reopen.

It will be open daily between 10am and 2pm (term time) to provide advice and guidance for parents and carers. If you wish to speak to a Specialist Advisory Teacher please call 01442 453920 during these times.

Herts Local Offer

Herts LA have created a [coronavirus updates webpage](#) on the Local Offer website, so they can keep families of children and young people informed with the latest messages from special educational needs and disabilities services relating to coronavirus. They will be posting to this page as soon as messages become available, and will be posting information which is relevant to SEND.

YC Hertfordshire – services to young people

The following is a message from Nicky Honeywell, Personal Adviser for our area for services to young people.

On Friday we suspended our schools work and groupwork youth projects. Young people will still however be able to access one-to-one information, advice, guidance and support on a range of issues, including health and wellbeing from our qualified Youth Workers and Personal Advisers. Wherever possible, this will be over the phone or via email in recognition of the need to limit social contact and to protect the health and wellbeing of young people, as well as our staff.

Young people can still access our centres should they need to do so but they will need to make an appointment in advance by calling 0300 123 7538, or via email at yc@hertfordshire.gov.uk or by contacting the area team office. Details of centres and opening times can be found on the link <https://www.ychertfordshire.org/support-for-young-people/>

My working days are Monday; Tuesday; Thursday and Friday so Sandringham students are also welcome to call me or WhatsApp face call me on my work mobile 07580 743746

With best wishes

Alan Gray