



SPALDING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Students and Parents

While it may not be as noticeable as usual in these peculiar times, we have reached the end of term and have broken for the Easter holiday. I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate all students for adapting to these very unusual circumstances and continuing to pursue their school work to the best of their ability. I also want to thank parents for the support that they have been giving to both their children and the School. We have listened to the feedback that we have received and have taken that on board in future planning.

It has been pleasing to hear from teachers that the quality of work that, on the whole, is being sent in by students for them to check is good, with the vast majority hitting the deadlines set. Completing this work really is important in a student's continued development as we will not have time, when the School does re-open, to go over this all of this content again in lessons; our curriculum is already full and, as you can imagine, there is not the capacity for teachers to re-visit this work, particularly where it is just a small number of students who have not completed it.

We do not wish for any student to return and be at a disadvantage, compared with their peers, because they have not done the work set. This is even more of a priority for our Year 10 and 12 students who next year will be sitting their GCSE and A Level examinations, and competing for the top grades with other students around the country. With this in mind, we are asking staff to monitor if students are not completing work so that our Pastoral Team can contact those students and their parents to investigate the reasons for the non-completion of work. In order to carry out this monitoring, we are using Go4Schools and specifically logging deadlines missed using a zero-point entry called 'Work not completed during Home Study'.

We recognise that these are not normal times and that our sanctions against students need to reflect that. That is why we are not using negative-point entries; simply a zero-point entry for the records and to alert people who need to know. For parents, unlike when negative and positive points are issued, you will not receive an email informing you of this entry; however, it is visible on your child's Go4Schools homepage. In order to continue to support your child working at home, I recommend that you regularly check in with them that they are coping and, where possible, offer them guidance. If there is a subject-specific question or task they are struggling with, then teachers are regularly checking their emails and will offer support.

If there is a more widespread issue that you wish to make us aware of, please initially contact your child's form tutor, who will either be able to help or seek support from the relevant colleagues in school. Also, if you are concerned about any wellbeing issues, please initially check the wellbeing advice that we sent home at the start of the school closure and consult the safeguarding section on the school website. Should these not help you then our safeguarding team are regularly checking a dedicated email (SGSwellbeing@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk) and will get back to you.

I am also aware that we have had two particular issues with emails. The first is that class lists in Outlook were not initially accurate and so some students received work that was not intended for them. Clearly that work can just be ignored and, as the problem is now fixed, a similar position should not arise. Secondly, a number of students have reported that some school

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emails are going into their junk email. If that is the case, this video link shows how to make a change to prevent that from happening:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/de941d13-4dd3-4347-99b4-e131171f3091>

We will not be sending work home across the Easter break, but I do encourage students, while they are isolated at home, to keep their brains active – engage in some reading, whether fiction or factual; develop a current skill, or learn a new one; take up a hobby...do not just spend the time lost in a gadget!

School will re-commence on Monday 20 April, and that is when we will expect students to begin working again. Please note that some teachers may send work home before the end of the holiday, but this is just to avoid an influx for students on that Monday morning. From there on we will continue to provide work in fortnightly phases; I anticipate this going on until at least the Whitsun half-term break, and so we are planning, at this stage, for the next five weeks (or 2½ phases).

I wish you all a safe and happy break and remind you that we have the new School Communications page of the website for further information, including the Home Study Guide and work scheduling plan.

Yours sincerely



S M Wilkinson
Headmaster