

Dear parents, carers and pupils,

Thank you everyone who has engaged in home learning with such enthusiasm and commitment. Trying to keep up to date with work set by teachers will definitely help with the transition back into school when it reopens and will keep the things learned fresh in the mind.

However, we realise that juggling family time, exercise, limited access to laptops and work-space is making this a real challenge for a number of pupils.

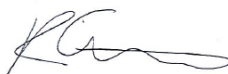
Pupils should complete what they can manage and do as much as possible but shouldn't beat themselves up about not meeting deadlines. We have worked really hard to ensure that there is enough work for pupils to be completing online but appreciate that this can lead to lots of pressure to get work done, sometimes with limited resources at home. Your teachers are looking at changing to a slightly shorter timetable which is simplified across year groups to reduce the amount of work we are setting each day in order to help you. For pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 it is particularly important not to lose sight of the fact that you have started GCSEs, BTECs or ALevels and so it's important not to fall behind with your studies but it is also important to maintain good balance between work, rest and exercise. Do as much as you are able to.

For pupils in Year 11 and Year 13, we understand that keeping motivated will be a challenge. If you are in these year groups it is important to remember that, whether you are moving onto Sixth Form, College, University or an Apprenticeship, your studies will continue and you need to keep yourself sharp for the time when this comes. Teachers are currently looking at the type of work being set for Year 11 and 13 pupils and after the Easter break we aim to start to shift some of the work we ask pupils to do to broader bridging work to help to prepare for ALevels or University. In the meantime please try to keep up with work set as well as you can.

Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 should keep trying to do as much as they can but we realise it may be a challenge to meet every deadline so just do your very best and make sure you are looking after your mental health as well as your academic progress.

When Easter comes make sure you all take the opportunity to get some rest. My Year 11 class inform me that Tik Tok is the platform of choice these days among many of you. Just try to make sure that you keep the content varied and don't spend all of your time on social media, this really is not good for you. Do remember that Tik Tok requires users to be at least 13 years old. Try to spend time during the day away from your phone or computer and get some exercise and talk to family members – it's important to keep things varied for the sake of everyone's mental health.

We will issue further guidance in due course in the meantime look after yourselves and each other and let us know if you need anything on enquiries@saintben.derby.sch.uk



Kevin Gritton
Headteacher