

23 March

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, thank you for the ways in which you have supported us this throughout this difficult time and thank you also for your efforts in reiterating messages about social distancing and hygiene. We do need to keep emphasising that this is the reason for school closure and whilst children might feel invincible at the best of times, **they must follow the guidelines about social distancing and hygiene themselves**. Of course, we know you know this and will be repeatedly tackling it at home, and it is not easy, but it is so very important.

Keeping safe and well and looking after everyone in our community takes priority over all our other preoccupations but we are aware that Home Study has brought with it some issues so here are a few updates on that area too. We don't want to bombard you with lengthy emails, but these seem to be recurring issues. We are of course two schools with ages from 11 to 18, so this is a generic update for the time being. Like everyone, we are taking one day at a time.

1. Attached is a guide to accessing Word and PowerPoint at home in case this has proven difficult.
2. We know some households will have limited access to a single device – please reassure children we know they can only do what is practical and we are not doing assessments or grading.
3. Staff are updating and reviewing the quality of resources but they too are working from home and may be either unwell or have limited access themselves, so please be mindful of requests for feedback and marked work.
4. We know printing is challenging, costly and impractical for some families and staff are looking at how different resources can be used.
5. Parents and pupils are emailing different members of staff about work and for the most part this seems to be working, but we know we probably need to find a better way to address issues centrally. Some staff teach very large numbers of children and can't email them all directly, but for generic please problems, feedback or suggestions, please continue to email homestudy@qes.org.uk.
6. We know there are children who do not have access at all, and as far as possible we will continue to get hard copies sent out.
7. Finally, our two schools are updating parents via several channels including our websites and Twitter but especially via email. So we are VERY keen to ensure we have accurate email addresses for all parents. So if have not been receiving messages over the past few days from our school email address (groupmailer@lunesdalestrust.co.uk) please email groupmailer@lunesdalestrust.co.uk detailing your child's full name, your full name and your current email address.

There are many more queries and concerns but hope this helps for now.

Stay safe and well. Whilst we might be socially distant from one another we remain a school community and care about our children enormously; please do remind them of that.

With best wishes.



Cathy O'Neill and Alison Wilkinson