

1 June 2020



— THE —
ELMGREEN

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Headteacher

Dear Families

Firstly, a welcome back to all of you and I hope that you are well and had a pleasant break. It has been a busy week in educational terms as the government released its plans for the partial reopening of secondary schools. I will be writing to parents (again) in Years 12 and 10 this week to explain how this is now going to work as the guidance released was not entirely what we were expecting. Students will start to come in on 15 June for some face to face work as a headline but the detail is a little more complex.

I know that families have very real concerns about the return to school and I will be doing a Parent Forum this Thursday 4 June. Unfortunately, due to a Trust meeting we have moved the time from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there, and will have my team with me to answer any questions you have on any topic that has come up in the last few months.

Hopefully in half term you will have received information about our Live Lessons, which are starting this week. If you have not had that communication then please contact admin@the-elmgreen-school.org.uk for the attention of Mr More so that we can ensure you have the correct codes to access them.

As it looks increasingly unlikely that students in Year 7 to Year 9 will be back before September, then this is the next logical step in how we are structuring education. The lesson should also give clear instructions of the amount of work that should be completed over the week or fortnight and thus solve the issue of our young people feeling overwhelmed. As always, we welcome your feedback on how it goes.

My assembly this fortnight is very much about the change in mood in the country as we move to some relaxation in the rules around lockdown. Rather like our Live Lessons and the gradual reopening of school, it does feel that we are moving from one phase to another. As the assembly says, we hope that people can act safely, sensibly and with integrity when these changes come into force. As Marco says in the great American play - 'A View from the Bridge' - 'all the law is not in a book' and all our community should ensure that we do not have a second spike after we have done so well to control this pandemic.

[Click here for my assembly](#)

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As the assembly also says I hope that our young people also reflect on the positives of the last few months as well as the clear negatives. The joy of simple bits of exercise, the clear air and (hopefully) proper conversation with members of your family.

It is the turn of Modern Foreign Languages this week. Ms Young has given a range of resources and it will then be the turn of Art:

MFL – Fabulous Online Resources to Keep You Language Fit for Summer! We'll probably not be having sunny holidays abroad this year but we've still got the sun and we can brush up our language skills for next time (and next exam!) by using the following fabulous resources compiled by the MFL team: Old favourites – many of you tell me that you're keeping up with your vocab using Duolingo and Memrise apps. These are brilliant and can help you build your language knowledge with just 10 minutes of practice every day. Choose your language and the type of vocab you want to learn.

Even if it's not something your teacher has directed you to, anything you add is always good. If you're a Netflix Fan and have exhausted all there is, why not try searching for a Foreign Language film. If you add the Netflix Google Extension you can watch some great shows, dramas and comedies with double subtitles. For serious Quiz Fans – Quizlet.com has great language sections to suit all topics. You can even join a quizlet live game by asking your teacher to organise that. Your teacher can also give you our school access with a code to complete some cool workouts in the Language Gym.

Some year 10s have been working hard there and building their verb and vocabulary skills. Our Year 12s have been doing excellent work on verb tenses and again regular work on this can get you language fit! For some more fun games you can access Linguascope.com with the user name and password your teacher will give you. Coffee Break Spanish and Coffee Break French are great little podcasts which again are quick wins for listening and speaking practice and a little bit of every day will do you good! Finally, BBC Bitesize can be your best friend for updating your language skills with a view to gaining ground for exams. So if you have chosen MFL for options, this is a good place to start and if you're year 10 you can brush up and work forward for your GCSE <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z799hbk> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zh647h>. Keep on keeping on and remember ... MFL.

Have a great week and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



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