



**PARK HALL**  
ACADEMY

WATER ORTON ROAD CASTLE BROMWICH  
BIRMINGHAM B36 9HF  
0121 748 0400 WWW.PARKHALLSCHOOL.ORG.UK

ASSOCIATE HEADTEACHER: DR T CLOSE

Tuesday, 09 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## UPDATE FROM ASSOCIATE HEADTEACHER

It has been some time since I have written to you so I wanted to take this opportunity to touch base and keep you up to speed with the work that we are doing. Whilst there has been much speculation in the media about the ever-changing situation regarding schools it remains clear that the current situation remains the same. Indeed, whilst the government publishes daily revisions to their briefings to schools their advice remains very much the same. **Remote, online learning currently is, and appears will remain for some time, the main way that students will continue to learn in the coming weeks.** It is therefore essential that all students fully engage with this work and complete it to the best of their ability. We know that parents/ carers play a main role in making this happen.

We have been planning carefully for several weeks for the much publicised 'face-to-face' contact for Year 10 and Year 12 students from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June on a rota basis of no more than one quarter of the cohort at any time. We have surveyed these year groups to ascertain the likely demand and are planning accordingly. We will contact individuals by the end of the week to share allocated session times for these pupils.

As a parent of children in Year 7 and Year 9 I know that many of our other students in Key Stage 3 are missing the structure, camaraderie and contact with their friends and teachers at school. However, it is important to note that our current, phased reopening has been carefully planned to ensure that it is as safe as possible and compliant with both government guidelines and best practice. To that end, we have worked closely with the Multi-Academy Trust Executive Team, Southalls (Health and Safety Consultancy) as well as BAM FM (the facilities management company).

It has also been an upsetting and shocking two weeks as scenes unfold in the USA following the tragic murder of George Floyd and the subsequent Black Lives Matter protests. There are clearly many factors in place in America that have led to the ferocity of the protests. A pandemic that disproportionately impacts on the BAME community, the economic difficulties the pandemic brings which also disproportionately impact on the BAME community and finally, but most significantly, a political structure and systems that can be seen to disadvantage people of colour globally.

Our values at Park Hall Academy drive us to discuss this with our students and families despite the school being currently closed. We share in a mission of equality and social justice for all. This means we are determined to promote a fairer society, one in which everyone has an equal opportunity to determine their own future. I am in no doubt that if our students were with us at school we would have discussed this news story with them, helping them to be informed and reiterating the importance of inclusion, equality and active anti-racism. We hope to do this remotely through additional work, available to all students through Microsoft Teams. We will encourage all students to follow the resources available, take part in the tasks and follow the sign posted links if they would like further support. More widely, we take our responsibility for delivering this curriculum very seriously. We use SE/ Citizenship lessons, lessons in other subjects like Humanities and English, assemblies and school events to cover topics that discuss the existence of white privilege, the concepts of prejudice and discrimination and the importance of



inclusion being a right for everyone and not a privilege for a select few. The curriculum we deliver and class discussions we have, carefully attempt to teach this content at an age appropriate level. We are constantly evolving our curriculum as we better understand how to celebrate diversity and inform our students effectively. We hope that you are able to support your child to engage in the resources we will prepare and that during this difficult time all our families and the wider community is safe and well.

In the meantime, please do get in touch with your child's Head of Year if you have any questions. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and messages of support. We really do appreciate them, even if we can't reply to everyone personally.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Close". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'C'.

Dr T Close  
Associate Headteacher