

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's been another busy remote learning week at IGS, where it seems that the vast majority of students (and staff!) are now beginning to get into the new swing of things.

I hope that your son/daughter is finding that they have had lots to keep them busy over the last couple of weeks, with plenty of support on hand from staff and that they are managing to stick to a pretty regular routine to help keep things as 'normal' as possible at the moment.

No sooner have we got started with remote learning however, than we now begin our Easter 'holiday' period. Although I know that many of us will not be doing what we had originally planned over the next two weeks, we are still hoping that you and your family can take some time together to relax a little and enjoy some downtime.

For those of you who are involved in the Covid 19 response as critical workers, we wish you all the very best for the coming weeks and remind you that IGS remains open to provide childcare over the Easter period, including Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday, if you need us.

A reminder too that as most of our staff will be taking their holiday break over the next two weeks however, there will be no online lessons posted each day over the next two weeks and teachers will not be monitoring their emails.

As you will see from the communications we've sent out to students this evening (attached and below), our pastoral teams will still be on hand in case of anything urgent that comes up.

### **Easter Holiday Activities**

We have also created a new 'Support & Resources' page in the 'Students' area on our website [here](#) that is full of ideas, resources and activities on a wide range of topics to help keep the whole family occupied over the next couple of weeks – please have a look and hopefully have some fun!

### **Wellbeing and Online Safety Updates**

I am also attaching to this email some important wellbeing, safeguarding and online safety updates for you from our Safeguarding and e-Safety teams and I would encourage you to take the time to read this over the coming days. It includes information and advice about a range of topics, as well as a handy list of support sources that you or your children may find helpful over the coming weeks and months if school remains closed. This also includes key emergency contacts in school, who will remain available to you and your children throughout the duration of our school closure period and over the Easter break.

### **GCSE / A Level Grading Announcement**

For those of you with children in Y11, 12 and 13, you will have already received a communication from Mrs. Purnell this evening, giving an update on how GCSE and AS/A Level grades will now be awarded this summer. I would just like to reiterate the point made by the government and Ofqual in their guidance today that teachers and schools cannot share grades with students or parents under any circumstances, to protect the integrity of the centre assessment grades, and to avoid teachers feeling under any pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence. Thank you for your support with this over the coming weeks.

We will be in touch again after the holidays, but in the meantime, we hope you and your families stay safe and well and we thank you for your ongoing support of IGS in these most unusual of times!

Helen Williams,

Headteacher

