

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Students and Staff, Parents and Guardians

RE: Message from our Head Girl team at The Holt School

We hope you and your families are all well and safe during this lockdown! Unfortunately, we missed the chance to deliver our assembly to you at the end of the spring term so we are going to share our Easter message by letter

Inevitably, as human beings we are all feeling overwhelmed during this unfamiliar time. However, it is vital to keep safe and find the positives under such circumstances. Take this time at home to grow as an individual by trying something new. This could be as simple as starting to read, baking or even attempting a new form of exercise. We've been trying out new skills, like learning to bake brownies and cupcakes! The time on our hands may seem endless, so grasp this opportunity of growing to love something new while you can, because as you grow up, you will have wished that you took advantage of this period to find a new passion and find something special about yourself.

It can be quite easy to feel quite isolated and detached from our regular community. We're sure you'll agree that the outbreak of COVID-19 has altered a lot of plans and caused a lot of disruption to our lives, but please remember your social responsibility to follow precautions as this is so important to keep our community safe. Try to provide a helping hand by delivering shopping to someone who is self-isolating or too vulnerable, maybe walk dogs for an older neighbour or call/FaceTime relatives and friends to provide emotional support. All of these are just small actions that will have a massive impact and could really make someone's day.

In order to grow as a school community, we all need to make sure we're trying our best to keep up to date and help each other when we don't understand things. It may be challenging to maintain focus and motivation and we really do sympathise with you all, especially as year 12 students; but keep going and dig deep, it will be for the best! You will now be doing your schoolwork online, which is new for us all, so it's important to keep in contact with teachers and peers. By staying in touch with your friends you will always have someone to turn to; this is so important to keep the network within our school thriving and help strengthen our community for when we return to normality.

Now more than ever it is vital that we work together as a global community by keeping safe, staying at home and giving the world time to heal. We must continue to thank all the NHS, our teaching staff and other key workers who, in spite of difficult times, are persevering and battling to get us all back to our normal lives. Until then, take the time to improve your knowledge of our international community, set goals to become more world-wise and try to inspire those around you. Your individual focus on growth will help to contribute to the positive development of the planet on a global scale.

We hope that from this letter you take away, that whatever challenges this situation may throw at us, our school community which we are all a part of, will always be here to support you. If you need to talk or would like a friendly face to chat with, the head girl team is always here to listen, so please do just drop us an email.

In the spirit of the Holt's key values: remember with gratitude how fortunate you are to be in good health; act with humility towards the wonderful work of the NHS; and stay stoic by keeping spirits up and helping in the ways that you can. Remember to remain calm about situations you cannot take control of. Throughout this difficult time aim to focus on the positives, be kind and stay smiling.

Take care of yourselves and your families and we hope to see you all soon.

Best wishes

Head girl, Abi Turner,
& her wonderful deputies, Abi Mills, Maddie Dowling, Tamanna Steven and Phebe Dowse.