



Update 17th April 2020

It seems strange to talk about the Easter holidays, but trying to maintain a sense of normality feels increasingly important. With this in mind, I do hope everyone managed to enjoy their Easter eggs and 'on-line' time with family. Yesterday's announcement that the country would continue in lock down for further period of 3 weeks came as no real surprise, but nevertheless, further highlights the severity of the situation we all face. Monday 20th April would have been the first day back at school for all students, with Year 11 being introduced to their extensive intervention programme, including their second parents' evening of the year. They would have also received a personalised pack of revision materials, designed to help with any issues identified in their mocks. We all know this will no longer happen and can I also reinforce that contrary to initial information (before final OFQUAL announcement) we are no longer in a position to distribute the mock results from March. The information is too sensitive now in relation to the final grades. Thank you all for your understanding with this matter.

Year 11

GCSE results will be released on the 20th August. This was the original date set out at the start of the year. We plan on holding a results day as per previous years. More information to follow.

Thank you to everyone who has replied with their permission to share personal information with colleges and training providers. If you are in Year 11 and you have not replied to the email address below, please do so as soon as possible.

Y11progression@woodham.org.uk

Message from New College Durham for Year 11:

Our admissions department are currently in the process of contacting all student applicants who have not yet received their Interview/offer. The plan is to arrange telephone interviews as a solution during the college closure.

Some students have given their school emails and we are aware that some may have difficulty accessing their school account. We will be in touch via email/text with your telephone interview date and time. Please get in touch with our admissions team on admissions@newdur.ac.uk to update your contact details, if necessary, stating the following:

- **Full name**
- **Date of Birth**
- **Course(s) applied for**
- **New email address**

The link below should help with any questions about your application or offer:

<https://www.newcollegedurham.ac.uk/apply/faqs/application-faqs/>.

Cont...

Registered Office Address: Woodham Academy, Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4AX Tel: 01325 300 328 / Fax: 01325 301 950 / E-Mail: info@woodham.org.uk / Web: www.woodham.org.uk

OFQUAL video

OFQUAL have released the following video for students, parents and carers with regards to the GCSE results this year:

<https://youtu.be/VXuDOrtJY1Q>

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

The company from who we have purchased the hoodies remain closed. When this changes, we will distribute the hoodies accordingly.

Parents / Carers of students with SEND

Mrs. McGinney has received a few calls regarding work and resources for students. In each case, work had been emailed to the child's account. Please ensure you are checking this regularly. If you require any help with how to log on, contact info@woodham.org.uk

Year 10

Year 10 will continue as they were before Easter. They will receive personalised work on the morning of each day from teachers, with a deadline for the following day. Where students have not been completing the work, phone calls are being made to see if any further assistance is required. Teachers are available via email.

Years 7,8 & 9

Years 7, 8 & 9 will continue as they were before Easter. In most cases, a weeks' worth of work will be uploaded onto Doodle. Teachers are available via email, but as I have stated in previous updates, try and keep this to a minimum, as priority is being given to Year 10.

New resources for all students

The link below can be used by all students to access some additional work and resources. There looks to be some excellent content. Enjoy!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

Free School Meals (FSM)

We have issued 3 weeks' worth of FSM vouchers this week. Edenred are now the organisation responsible, but seeing as we have had several questions regarding the process, I have listed the most appropriate FAQ's below:

- **What's the difference between an eCode and an eGift card?**
eCode – this is the 16-digit code which your school may email or text to you. You'll need this code to access www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk and choose your supermarket eGift card. You cannot use the eCode directly with the retailer, it must be exchanged for an eGift card.
eGift card – each supermarket has their own eGift card. To order your eGift, redeem your eCode at www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk. The eGift card will be sent to the email address entered during check-out and can be spent instore at the chosen supermarket.
- **How do I use my eCode to select a supermarket eGift card?**
You should order your supermarket eGift at home before going to the store. To select your supermarket eGift card, follow the steps below:
 1. Copy eCode from your email or text message
 2. Go to www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk
 3. Enter the 16-digit eCode (you can enter more than one eCode if you have more than one to redeem)
 4. Select a supermarket
 5. Enter the amount and add to basket
 6. Checkout and enter the email address you would like the eGift card sent to
 7. Your eGift card will be processed and sent (please allow up to 24 hours for it to be delivered to your inbox).
- **How long do I have to redeem the eCode?**
Your eCode will expire after 1 month.

Cont...

- **How do I use a supermarket eGift card?**

A supermarket eGift card is a digital voucher. The eGift card email contains a link to a barcode which can be presented at the till in-store either on a smartphone screen or printed on a piece of paper, just like a gift card.

- **I have ordered an eGift card, but it hasn't come through to my email?**

Firstly, check your junk mail and/or trash folder. If it still hasn't arrived within 24 hours, please contact Edenred: freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com who can look into this for you. If you receive an error message when trying to redeem your code on the free school meals website, you may have entered the incorrect code. Please try to enter your code again. If your code is still not accepted, please delete the browsing history on your device – as your device may be storing the incorrect code in its memory.

Trips and Visits

Staff are working closely with all of the travel companies regarding the France, Italy and Thailand trips. I have no further information for you all. As we stand, the government have not said 'do not travel' on the dates covering our trips. Therefore, if we cancel off our own backs, all monies would be lost. Insurance policies are in place for all trips, but we must be told that we can't travel for these policies to be valid. As ever, I will update as soon as I know any further information.

And finally...

I've tried to finish my updates with something interesting / motivational / a break from the norm. With this in mind, I stumbled across this video of a beached whale in America (don't ask how!). Sometimes, when you have a large problem, it's best to consider all possible options and then carefully decide on the best solution. Often, this isn't the quickest and may take a considerable amount of time and chip away. If you rush into something (or out of something in our current predicament) the outcome may actually be worse!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPuaSY0cMK8>

Thank you for your continued support and patience

Stay safe,



Andrew Bell
Headteacher