



Headteacher: Mr David Graham

DG/AP
PA Office

25th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Never before have so many letters been written home! A special thank you from me for making our school closure smooth, particularly those in Years 8 and 9, who left earlier than other year groups. Thank you too for those that took the time to send positive messages in, they were so appreciated.

We hope that this letter finds you and your family well and that the first couple of days of home learning have been a success. We wanted to firstly remind you that we are here to help if you need us and that you can contact the school if you need any support. The best person, in the first instance, is the teacher of the subject you are struggling with and they will respond to your questions on email as soon as they can. Thank you also for keeping your children at home and making arrangements wherever you can, far from easy, but hugely appreciated.

Students should be logging into Show My Homework to find the details of their work. Teachers are setting work each Friday, and the work is due to be completed by the following Friday. Teachers are working on providing clear instructions on how to complete the work.

If a student would like extra work or they are struggling to understand a topic they should go to the Home Learning page on the school website and look at the extended learning section. Here there are details of what is being studied in every year, and suggestions of web links linking to those studies.

Some parents and students have been asking how to use google classroom. The following link is a short video tutorial which explains how google classroom works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfgqtCi7hdo>

In addition to this, we also would like to share with you some top tips for making home learning successful:

- Know your child and adapt what they need to do to suit them - not all children learn in the same way and you might have to make adjustments.
- Learning is very important, but so are life skills. This is an opportunity for children to engage in things like learning to cook, how to use a washing machine, gardening, decorating, planning meals etc.
- If you have the space, set up an area dedicated to home learning.
- Children will find it hard to concentrate on one thing for hours at a time - it is best to let them do a variety of different tasks throughout the day with regular breaks.
- Drawing up a rota that incorporates some play/down time is a good idea. If you can supplement this with a reward system for sticking to the plan then that would work brilliantly.
- Get ready for an exercise session on YouTube every morning with Joe Wicks - being active is vital for feeling happy and healthy.
- One of the most powerful things your child can do is read - we have posted lots of material on this and it will help their wider learning immeasurably.

Be forgiving of yourself and your child. This is a very stressful time. If you need to put on a movie to get through the day, that's absolutely fine.

e-mail: admin@putteridgehigh.org

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I understand that there is a great deal of uncertainty amongst Year 11 students over how their public exam grades will be awarded. At the moment, we only know the same as you do, that Ofqual has said they will (from their website) *'develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead. To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in. We will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years.'*

At the moment, we have not received the promised information from the exam boards about how this will happen, although we know that the aim is to provide these grades to students before the end of July.

Finally, as and when we have more information to share I will be in touch. Please follow all government advice on social distancing, it is imperative to guide those around you to make good decisions to support the conclusion of this dreadful situation. I know many of us are anxious and of course that's understandable, let's direct that energy to support each other, look after friends and family and see an end to the situation as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr David Graham
Headteacher