



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Alex Pearson – Executive Principal

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Dear parents/carers,

I would like to welcome you back to a new school term! Alas, as with most things in life right now, I must do this remotely and online. This will not stop us, however, from continuing to attempt to engage with all of our pupils and support you in the delivery of their learning as much as possible. All the staff have been working hard to provide learning resources for your child and these will be made available today. As a reminder, these resources can be found here: <https://www.harriers-aspirations.org/news-dates/announcements/> or via Seesaw.

Today, new online lessons and resources have been released by BBC Bitesize and separately a government backed organisation called Oak National Academy. We will take a look at these to see how we can incorporate them into our future home learning provision.

Please let me reiterate that we know how challenging home schooling is. The most important thing any parent can be doing right now is to reassure their child in these confusing, unsettling times. We are not setting new content for the children to learn, but returning to concepts that have already been taught in school. This will ensure that they can hit the ground running when we do return. Schools are not expecting parents and carers to home school your children with hours of lessons every day but we know you will be doing your very best to support your children's learning and complete the work set. Today the government has published [advice for parents about supporting learning during the Coronavirus school closures](#).

You will be aware that the government plans to continue the current lockdown for the forthcoming few weeks. This means that for the foreseeable future all schools will continue to remain closed to all pupils with the exception of those of key workers and those who are classed as vulnerable. So please continue to keep your children at home unless they fall into one of these two categories.

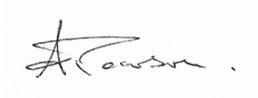
This morning the government announced they will provide free laptops and tablets for disadvantaged Year 10 students and other vulnerable pupils to help them learn at home during the coronavirus lockdown in aiming to prevent those who don't have access to devices at home from falling behind during the partial closures of schools. They have also pledged to provide 4G routers to families with disadvantaged secondary pupils that have no mobile or broadband access. **There is no mention of this being extended to primary school children.**

Those parents of children eligible for Free School Meals should have received government vouchers by now. There have been a number of teething issues with this new government scheme, so please contact the office email if you have not received yours.

At the moment, the government has not provided any indication of when schools may reopen or how this will happen. We are in the process of planning for how this might be managed but will need to wait for clear guidance from government regarding expectations of schools before we can finalise these plans and share them with you. However, rest assured that we will contact you as soon as this advice and guidance becomes clear.

I do hope that you and your family are managing as well as can be expected in these difficult times. Please remember that we are here to be of assistance in any way that we can.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Pearson', enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

Alex Pearson
Executive Principal