



Dear Parent / Guardian

I hope this bulletin finds that you and your family are well and coping with the continued situation we are facing. As you know school remains closed for all students except those of key workers who require childcare, and this will continue throughout what would have been the 'Easter Holidays'. This bulletin is designed to give you some important updates and keep in touch at a time when we are all thinking of ways to support our community.

Looking after our Mental Health

Keeping happy, healthy and motivated is a crucial focus in these difficult times. It's important that we are mindful of how we are feeling when we find ourselves out of our normal routines and this can be rather unsettling. The following are a selection of useful ways to help pupils understand the current situation and how they can help themselves from Mrs Mackellar and Mrs Sutton and the Well Being Team. These will also be sent in a separate bulletin to pupils.

For Pupils: [A powerpoint with some key guidance for all pupils.](#)

For Pupils: Apps and Websites to support positive Mental Health: [Link Here](#)

For Parents: Useful resources from the Department of Education: [Link here](#)

JLV Reading

Getting the balance right between keeping our children focused and motivated can be a challenge especially when we are concerned about screen time. However we would still encourage all pupils to be reading where possible to continue to build up their knowledge and word power. At the same time without the Knowledge Cafe you may be struggling to access reading material... The following links provide excellent resources to support reading:

1. All pupils in Year 7 and 8 have access to **Achieve 3000** which is our non-fiction reading programme. Pupils are very familiar with this. They have a selection of articles to read on their chromebooks. Each article takes no more than 30 minutes to read and pupils are used to creating a summary of the article before answering quiz questions. Pupils aim to reach at least 75% of questions correctly. Teachers are able to monitor progress. A reasonable expectation would be that pupils should be aiming to read two articles each week, but there is no limit.
2. **MyOn** - Now freely available - 6000 books to read online (mainly non-fiction). All books have Acc Reader quizzes. Use the following link: <https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>
3. Keep up to date with current affairs using **The Day** <https://theday.co.uk/>
Daily news article, reading-based activities and vocabulary

Setting Work for Pupils

As a school we recognise and appreciate the efforts that parents and carers are giving to support the ongoing learning and progress despite the closure. We recognise the unique circumstances of this situation has meant an additional challenge for pupils, parents and teachers to provide some continual support for learning but it is also important to recognise that staying happy, healthy and motivated is crucial. You know your child best and I know that families may want to make the most of the opportunities that enforced isolation is offering. Balancing exercising, relaxing and completing school work will be a challenge for all families and we certainly do not want to create any more pressure.

Pupils have continued to be set work by their subject teachers and we understand that, particularly for our younger students, managing this can be challenging.

The process for access work is as follows:

- Using FROG pupils use the 'Out of School' button to access a list of teachers and the work they have set.
- Teachers describe the work that should be done, deadlines and where to find any resources required. Google Classroom is often used by teachers to organise the handing in of work.

We have asked all teaching staff to review the work set so that:

- Teachers are setting a reasonable and achievable amount of work for pupils to complete independently.
- Each piece of work has a clear deadline to help students organise their time.
- Tasks have a clear outcome so pupils know and understand what they need to do.
- New work to be set only when the deadline has passed.
- Clear instructions about how much time to spend on this work and how to hand this in.

On occasion teachers will set work which introduces new information and new ideas. This can be especially difficult and teachers are working hard to ensure that pupils have the resources and support they require. Teachers will continue to monitor their gmail so pupils can seek support if required.

Please get in touch using the email addresses below:

- If you have any specific issues with work set
- You are having problems with your chromebook
- You are having problems accessing the work set by staff

Year 8 Learning Manager - Mr P Morris pmorris@cramlingtonlv.co.uk

Year 7 Learning Manager - Ms N Sateri nsateri@cramlingtonlv.co.uk

Regards,

Mr D Clark - dclark@cramlingtonlv.co.uk

Deputy Head

