

24th April 2020

**Parents/Carers
of TQEA students**

Dear Parents/Carers

In my first letter to you at the start of this week, I promised that I would communicate with you regularly and give you any updates. Whilst there have been no changes in the status of schools nationally, I thought it would be timely to re-visit key information with you within this letter.

Thank you for supporting your child at home with the subject learning grids that we issued on Monday. We have had a positive response to the grids from parents and students and we really appreciate your feedback. It is great to hear that students are using the home learning timetable to structure their activities each day and are engaging with their teachers on Google Classrooms. Please remember that if you or your child requires support with their home learning you should contact the following staff: -

Year 7 - Mr Cope via j.cope@tqea.org.uk

Year 8 and 9 - Mr Saye via j.saye@tqea.org.uk

Year 10 - Mrs Morris via a.morris@tqea.org.uk

We are operating the government e-voucher scheme to support students who receive Free School Meals. We are aware from a small number of parents that they have not received their first set of vouchers from Edenred, the service who complete orders on behalf of schools. I assure you that other schools are in a similar situation with regard to the issuing of vouchers and please rest assured that our Assistant Principal, Mrs Gibson, has been working hard to resolve these issues with Edenred. I can confirm that Edenred have promised to fulfil any outstanding orders this week. Please contact Mrs Gibson via b.gibson@tqea.org.uk if you have still not received your first voucher from them by early next week. It is also timely to remind parents that they may wish to check whether they are eligible to receive support from the Free School Meals service and this can be accessed by visiting:- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. From this site you will be able to apply directly for support.

It is also worth reminding parents that TQEA remains open for the following children: -

- Those whose parents are frontline workers – the Government has stated that these include NHS staff, police, school workers and supermarket delivery drivers.
- Those classed as what the Secretary of State describes as “vulnerable children”. These include those who have a social worker assigned and those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

With this criteria in mind, if your circumstances change and you need your child to come to school, then please e-mail Jo Bickley at info@tqea.org.uk and we will work with you to support your needs.

We are missing our wonderful students and can't wait to see them learning with us again in school. I have been in school this week and it feels very empty and oddly quiet without our thriving learning community of students and staff. We all look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

I wish you and your families the best of health. Stay safe and look after each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Harding'. The signature is stylized with a large 'N' and 'H' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Neil Harding
Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy