



EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Emmanuel Schools Foundation

25 March 2020

Dear Parents, carers and students

May I begin by thanking you again for the messages of thanks and encouragement that have been passed to staff over the past few days. In so many ways, we've had a great start to our new way of doing school; with students who need to be on-site enjoying learning there, as well as students getting started on a pattern of home learning across the region.

We certainly don't have everything right yet though and I can assure you that teaching staff, led by academic leaders, are working hard to ensure that we set the right amount of work and that the work set is pitched appropriately for home learning. I would like to restate my message from Monday, that students should not be worried or anxious if they are currently unable to regularly access ITS Learning or if they feel they are 'falling behind'. Students will not be in trouble if they fall behind and will have lots of time to catch up over the coming weeks and months.

We shall be exploring with Heads of Department this week how we can do more to get the balance right in setting tasks, so that students are occupied but not overwhelmed. Of course, how much work is expected of our students will vary from year group to year group. Year 12 students should still be working fairly long hours, where circumstances permit, and this is largely true for Year 10 students as well. However, I think that Lower School students should be seeking to engage in tasks for around three hours each day, certainly no more than four, leaving time for additional interests, time with friends (albeit virtually), time to play and time to support the running of the home. Our aims for Lower School students are for them to keep intellectually active, keep engaged with their learning, keep connected with school and to maintain practice in those subjects where practice is key, such as languages, mathematics and music. In addition to all of this, we want students to enjoy themselves, remembering that true enjoyment often comes from the excitement of acquiring new knowledge, learning and mastering a new skill or gaining clear understanding for the first time.

I would also like to inform you that from tomorrow, we will only have access to the site for those participating in the additional provision for key workers and vulnerable students. Reception and administration staff will no longer be working on site and as such, communication must now be by email using the 'contact us' form on our [website](#) so that your query can be emailed to the most appropriate member of staff.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we get this right together.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Waterfield
Principal