

1 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that it has been a full 2 weeks since the end of the Easter holiday. The next work pack will be with you next week and available on the pupil drive. Students have been emailing in with any questions and I know that some students have been sending in evidence of completing the house challenges and gaining extra house points. Please keep checking out the YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd7tDwoiDSL0iPIM4NH9YwA> and see how else you can gain points.

This week we have added a new careers section to the channel and Mr Noakes has done an introductory video. This shows you where the careers resources for all year groups can be found on the school website. Please take the time to look at these and click on the links for your child's year groups. There are some exciting activities including films and interviews. We have also added updated college information for entry this September. If students in Year 11 have not yet secured a place at college or sixth form they can still apply. If any student still wishes to apply to John Willmott School sixth form then they can contact the sixth form team at enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk and someone will be in touch.

I have been made aware of an organisation called Turn 2 Us. They can be found at the following link: <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Get-Support/Turn2us-Funds/Turn2us-Coronavirus-Grant-Fund> They are currently providing grants to people who have been affected by the current coronavirus situation. They are able to provide a one-off crisis grant of £500 per household towards essential living expenses (food, bills etc.).

They can only help those who are in immediate financial difficulty due to the Coronavirus. You will need to satisfy all of the following criteria:

- You can clearly demonstrate a loss of income due to Covid-19 (evidence will be required showing at least a 50% reduction in earnings, we can accept bank statements, letter from employer outlining change in employment);
- You are a resident of the UK / Republic of Ireland;
- You are not currently in Further or Higher Education;
- You are over 18;
- You have less than £1K savings (single person) or less than £2K savings (couple/family).

Please note that if you have received a Turn2us grant in the last 6 months they will be unable to assist you.

The Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust have been in touch to remind us that they are still operating despite the lockdown situation and they have extended the deadline for applications for uniform grants. All the details can be found online at <https://www.suttoncoldfieldcharitabletrust.com/>, you can apply online via their website providing that you live in Sutton (and parts of Minworth) and are entitled to one of the following benefits.

- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit

- Working Tax Credit (note: maximum income levels may apply)
- Job Seeker's Allowance
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit

Please remember these are exceptional times leading to exceptional circumstances. There is a wide range of support available which is listed on our website. I have received positive feedback from everyone that has accessed them so please do not be afraid to use them. If you need any additional help please email enquiry@jws.bham.sch.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Finally, the staff have recorded a video for students, and this can be found under the red COVID-19 banner at the top of the website. We hope that you like it.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Peters
Headteacher