



Principal **Nick Martin**
BSc, MA, PGCE, NPQH

Dear Samuel Whitbread students

We hope you and your families are safe and well. During this rather unusual and distressing time for many, we wanted to write and say thank you!

Many of you have been in contact with us to share your fears, doubts and concerns, which has allowed us to plan effectively to support each and every one of you - both during the school closure and when we reopen. The Samuel Whitbread community has, and continues to be, something to be very proud of. Visitors to the school always mention how great the relationships are between staff and students and in times like these, those relationships are more important than ever. The way that all of you have risen to the challenge of distance learning has made us feel very proud as the leaders of the school.

When we look back in the future, 2020 will always be remembered as the year:

- examinations were cancelled and the schools were closed.
- Thursday evenings were dedicated to clapping our NHS and key workers.
- we all stayed home to protect the NHS and save lives.

We know this may feel strange or restrictive at times and we are all experiencing very different lockdowns but the message from us is clear: this situation will get better and schools will eventually reopen. When they do we will endeavour to fill any gaps in subject knowledge and support you with your personal, health and mental well-being. In the meantime, it's about continuing with, or establishing, good routines that are right for you and your family that includes learning, exercise, catching up with your friends and family online as well as and relaxing and having some fun!

Like you, your parents and carers are facing challenges. Many of them are juggling being teachers whilst working at home, and trying to support you whilst maintaining a busy household. They've probably not studied Shakespeare or algebra for many years and may not remember their irregular French verbs or the periodic symbol for Gold. So please be patient and contact your teachers regularly through email if you need help or support and use the Google Classroom stream to pose questions and seek guidance. Step away from work regularly; tidy your bedroom; help with dinner; walk the dog!

We are suggesting you work for four hours a day but know that some days you'll want a lie in and other days you might need a day off... and that's OK! You can decide your own timetable for the week. Create a daily task list and focus on 2-4 subjects each day only but also remember to go out for your daily exercise – walk, run or cycle!

We hope that you are enjoying the messages from your Heads of Year and tutors, and still feel part of the school despite the distance. Remember, if you need us, we are only an email away!

Please enjoy the bank holiday weekend with your family. Take some time away from work and reflect on the things, despite the hard times, that you are grateful for. We will get through this together and hopefully we will all see you soon back at school.

Wishing you all the best,

Mr Martin, Mr Butler and Mrs Linehan

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