

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope you had a good weekend and that you are all managing to stay safe. These are certainly very strange times!

I guess it's not a great surprise that IT systems have crashed this morning across the country! I know that our SIMS system has been experiencing real difficulties but, clearly, this is not a Walton-specific issue; I understand that the entire 4G network in Manchester collapsed an hour or so ago!

So, the message needs to be: remain patient. My guess is that things will settle down as we establish a new routine nationally. It also gives me an opportunity to reinforce my expectations of students.

**KS 3 (year 7 and year 8):**

- Try to complete approximately 3 hours' worth of work per day
- Do an hour's worth of exercise
- Read for an hour

**KS4 (Years 9, 10 and 11):**

- Try to complete approximately 4 hours' worth of work per day
- Do an hour's worth of exercise
- Read for an hour

**Sixth Form:**

- Try to complete approximately 5 hours' worth of work per day
- Fit in exercise and reading wherever possible

We expect that IT systems will be less reliable than usual. Please make sure that your children do not stress if they are unable to access work at a specific time. Get them to do another activity (including accessing the additional resources available on the home page of the school website – under the 'WORKING FROM HOME' section on the left-hand side of the page); or else get them to test themselves on previously learnt work (retrieval practice) or to read a book. They can then come back to SIMS an hour or so later. Please reassure them that we are NOT expecting them to complete everything we set.

Some parents have been asking about the situation regarding GCSE and A Level exams. I will write separately to update you on this.

Finally, I would like to pass on my gratitude to our Year 11 and year 13 students. They were exemplary on Friday as they left school – a real credit to you! I hope they enjoyed their leavers' assemblies.

Stay safe

Yours sincerely

**ND FINLAY  
HEADTECHER**