

Headteacher:
Mr T Maltby BA (Hons), MA, NPQH



19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are all facing extraordinary challenges together and the situation is placing pressure on all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can to keep our school open since this crisis began and I would like to pay tribute to their remarkable commitment. They have been extraordinary and we will continue to play our part as a community school over the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, the Government made several very important decisions yesterday evening (18th March) about schools. There will be further detail to follow but I wanted to ensure you had as much information as possible as early as possible.

The first is that it has advised schools in England to close, except for certain groups of children, from this Friday afternoon (20th March) onwards as a further measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. No date has been set for when schools will re-open for all students.

From Monday, the school will continue to be open for the following groups of students:

- Children whose parents are frontline workers – the Government has said these would include NHS staff, police and supermarket delivery drivers. However, others will be in this category and we expect to hear more from the Government on this in the coming days.
- Those classed as what the Secretary of State described as “vulnerable children”. These could be those who have a social worker and those with EHCPs.

For students in these groups, we have also been asked to remain open through the Easter holidays and we will do our best to achieve this. From Monday 24th March and throughout this period, our school will provide care for these children where they will be supported with their learning in our LRC. As soon as I have more information on the above groups I will share this with you; children who do not fall into the groups listed above should remain at home with appropriate care.

The second key announcement is that exams will not take place this summer. For children and young people, who have worked so hard to prepare for their GCSEs or A levels, this will be upsetting and we fully sympathise with them. At the same time we are reassured that children’s grades in GCSEs and A levels will be awarded on the basis of moderated assessment, in conjunction with the exam boards and Ofqual. This means that the hard work students have done will be rewarded. It will not feel quite the same, and nor is it, but they will receive grades that will progress them to the next stage of their lives. Our Heads of Year 11 and Year 13 are speaking with all these students today as a priority and we are still expecting students to continue with their studies as we seek further clarification from the DfE.

The school is now completing preparations for the transition to remote learning. The expectation is that your child should have their timetable in front of them at home and continue to access work on-line and that this work will be marked on-line in accordance to our policy. To finalise these significant preparations I have taken the decision to close the school at 1.30 tomorrow. However, should your child need to continue to be on school site for the full day tomorrow please write a note in their planner and they will be asked to go to our LRC from 1.30pm to 3.05pm.

I will continue to ensure there is clear communication from the school at this time and beyond. I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Maltby
Headteacher

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