



DW/CM

19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update

School Closure from Monday 23rd March

You will be aware that the Prime Minister and Education Secretary announced yesterday that schools will **close indefinitely from Monday 23rd March for MOST children.**

Schools are to remain open for children whose parents are identified as 'key workers'. The government will make an announcement later today to identify precisely which groups of workers this will be. Once this list has been released I will contact you again to ask if you fall into one of the groups and to indicate whether you would like school to look after your children during the general closure.

Schools are also to remain open to children with Education and Health Care Plans and those who are under the remit of social workers and therefore considered vulnerable. School staff are contacting those families directly.

With the deepest regret, only those children that fall into the categories identified by the government will be able to attend school. We ask for your understanding and consideration of this.

Arrangements for Friday 20th March

As you know from my letters this week a number of school staff are either having to self isolate or stay at home as they fall into a vulnerable category and this number increases each day. I am very pleased to say that, unlike some schools who have been affected more, we have so far been able to remain open for all year groups. We have only been able to do this because we have had a number of trainee teachers who have been able to support us this week. The Universities who are training these teachers have taken the decision to end these placements from the end of today, Thursday.

We will no longer have sufficient staff to provide for all students so we are putting in place the following arrangements for **Friday 20th March only:**

Years 7, 8 and 9 – If your children in these year groups are able to stay at home then **please do not send them to school**. If they are self isolating they should also stay at home. However if this is not possible and you need them to attend school then they are welcome to attend as normal.

Years 10 and 12 – Unless they are self isolating, all students should attend as normal.

Years 11 and 13 – Unless they are self isolating all students are welcome to attend school. I have spoken to all Year 11 and Year 13 students who are in school today about the cancellation of their examinations and the obvious uncertainty that brings. Staff are talking to them today in lessons about their questions and concerns and are reassuring students as best they can.

I understand that tomorrow, the Government intend to give details of how qualifications are going to be awarded therefore we would like Year 11 and Year 13 students to be in school so that we can talk to them again. Once I have clarification I will be writing to Year 11 and Year 13 parents to explain the process and also to let them know of the support that we will continue to give those students over the coming months.

Free School Meals

The Government are going to introduce a national system to support students who are entitled to free school meals. In the meantime we are looking at the best way to provide for those students and will contact families direct with details.

Work for students who are at home

As I have indicated previously work will be provided for all students. We are finalising details of this and I will write with full details as soon as possible.

As I mentioned in my letter yesterday, a significant amount of the work will need access to the internet. If this will be difficult for you please contact your child's Head of Year.

As a reminder there is a helpline available to schools that can also be used by parents as follows:-

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

I know that for all of us this is a time of great uncertainty so once again, thank you for your support and co-operation during this very difficult period.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Watson
Headteacher