

19 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Latest Update

As you will be aware, yesterday evening the Government announced the following:

- At end of school on Friday, schools will shut until further notice for all pupils other than the following, for whom the school will remain open:
 - The children of key workers
 - The most vulnerable children i.e. those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and those with care workers
- No exams or assessments will take place this summer. The government intends to work with the sector and Ofqual to ensure “children get the qualifications they need”.

Children with parents or carers who are key workers

As things stand, the Government has identified NHS staff, police and delivery drivers as examples of key workers. A full list of key worker categories is due to be published by the Cabinet Office today but is not yet available. When this is provided, I shall write to you to find out which children this applies to and whether or not parents/carers intend them to come into school. We will need this information to plan the necessary staffing and catering provision.

Children with EHCPs and/or care workers

We will contact parents and carers tomorrow to find out whether you intend for your child to be in school. Again, this is so we can ensure appropriate provision.

Parents and carers of children entitled to free school meals

A separate letter will be sent to you tomorrow outlining arrangements for the continued provision of free school meals, regardless of whether your child is in school or at home.

Parents and carers of young people with public examinations this year

It is, to say the least, decidedly upsetting that those due to sit examinations in the summer, having worked so hard to this point, are now no longer able to do this. A message to them in assembly this morning, to try to reassure them, was that all Year 11s and 13s across the country are in the same position and a solution will be found. The Secretary of State has been quoted as stating: “Our aim will be to issue people GCSE and A Level examination (results) in August as we usually do, but under a different process and different system to how we have done in the past.”

As we get more information on this, we will of course let you know. In the meantime, we have impressed upon students the important of continuing learning at home, using the online resources provided. This is for three reasons: (i) learning and gaining new knowledge and skills during this period matters in and of itself, so that each individual does not fall behind their peers, (ii) it is

essential that students continue to lay the foundations that they will need to call upon in the next phase of their education, be that sixth form, college or university, and (iii) it remains possible that the work being studied will be examined at some point, and therefore familiarity with it needs to be maintained. Putting all this together, the message to Year 11s and 13s is that they need to engage with the online learning resources at home in a structured way until the end of their courses.

With regard to next steps and progression routes for students in these year groups, I shall write to you in due course with further guidance.

Parents and carers of children with online access to learning resources

Please refer to the [letter](#) sent yesterday regarding this.

Parents and carers of children without online access to learning resources

We are putting in place arrangements to get hard copies of resources to you and will contact you directly about this.

As mentioned earlier, I shall write to you again as soon as clarity around key worker categories becomes available. In the meantime, thank you as always for your continued support at this challenging time.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Andriot
Head of School