



Dear Parent/Guardian – 19th March.

Coronavirus Update

You will be aware that on Wednesday 18th March the Prime Minister announced plans for schools to close at the end of the day on Friday 20th March 2020.

Thank you for the information you have provided for us to enable us to begin to plan for continued provision for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children.

Friday 20th March

We will remain open to all students tomorrow. Everyone is working hard to provide safe and suitable provision at this time and I am sure you will appreciate that we are also coping with significant staff absence. Your support has been appreciated and we have been humbled by your emails and phone calls of encouragement.

Distance Learning

From Monday, the vast majority of our students will be learning from home. This is clearly going to look different to a normal school day and we hope, if you are able, that your plans include family time, exercise and relaxation. We have already issued guidance on our plans for home learning and please do utilise them for they are extremely well structured. If you have mislaid the letter or information please do call the school and we shall email you a copy.

Provision for Children of Key Workers and Others

From Monday, we are planning to open the Academy for children of key workers and for the most vulnerable children. We have sent a survey out, thank you for the speedy response, and have contacted all those who have come forward as key workers and we have contacted our most vulnerable children. If you feel that is not the case please do contact the school on Friday 20th March.

Support for Students who are entitled to Free School Meals

As per my previous communication, we have been working with our catering team and suppliers to ensure we can provide for students who are entitled to Free School Meals. We have made contact with all families this affects and essential supplies have either been collected from the Academy or are being delivered tomorrow to our identified families. We are looking at how we can keep on supporting our families over a longer closure period and I will update you on this very soon.

Examinations for Students in Year 11 and Year 13

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 are, understandably, upset and anxious about the announcements made last night regarding examinations. The Prime Minister has confirmed that exams due to be taken in May / June will now not take place. This affects all GCSE, Btec and A Level exams.

In this time of uncertainty, we have ensured that all Year 11 and Year 13 students have been spoken to today and given a consistent message. I have included this information below so that you can continue to support your children at home.

Students need to continue to prepare for whatever the situation is going to be. At this stage we know that exams will not be taken in May and June but we don't know any more. We will let students know as soon as we know more.

It is important to keep control of the 'controllables'. Students cannot control the decisions happening nationally but they can take control of their own actions. At this stage, and until we know more, this includes continuing with any coursework and learning.

As a school we are very well set up to provide predicted grades should this be required. We have not been asked for this yet but we are ready for this eventuality.

*The last five / seven years have been productive - students have learnt a lot. We understand how disappointed students and parents may be, but want to remind everyone that it is the **learning** that is important.*

We will, of course, keep everyone updated as soon as we know more. Whilst we await this information, please can I kindly ask that you refrain from contacting us with individual queries about your child's predictions as we will not be able to provide any further information.

Thank you once again and I am really proud of how our pupils, your children, have demonstrated such strength and resilience. They are a credit to you and please congratulate them. It is together that we shall succeed. I wish you nothing but good health and stay safe, stay positive.

Yours sincerely

Darren Turner
Executive Principal.

