

Headteacher

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19th March 2020

School Closure

Dear Parents

I am sure you will all now be aware of the following instruction from the government:

After schools shut their gates on Friday afternoon, they will remain closed until further notice except for children of key workers and vulnerable children, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus.

We will be liaising with the local authority over plans for children of key workers and for vulnerable students. The government have indicated that they will be publishing a more definitive list of all those considered key workers. The SEND team will be contacting parents of all students with an EHCP.

Arrangements for Friday 20th March for students not needing to self-isolate

Years 12 & 13: Parents of students in these years have already had letters advising them when their daughters should be in school. All students who are in school must be in their usual lesson rooms or in room 61 for study.

Year 11: Students in Year 11 were sent home at 9am this morning and will not be in school tomorrow. They were asked to take all materials home today and will be set work to consolidate and build on their learning.

Years 7-10: Students should be in school by 8.20am tomorrow. They must take home all books, equipment and PE bags. Dismissal will be at the usual staggered times at the end of the day.

Arrangements from Monday 23rd March

The school will be sending home separate information about how your daughter should access work from home, along with advice should your daughter's materials still be in school. We will write separately with further advice for key workers.

Please be aware that schools are being asked to close in order to facilitate social distancing. A key component of this is the advice from the government to:

- *avoid gatherings with friends and family.*
- *keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media*

The school would ask you to respect this and ensure that your daughter remains at home during the period of closure.

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Public Examinations

The announcement regarding public examinations will have been extremely unsettling for students due to take A Levels, BTECs and GCSEs. If your daughter was due to take any of these examinations, please reassure her that the school's strong history of results along with the data the school already holds means that we are in the best possible position given the circumstances. The school will actively work to ensure that students get the grades which they deserve. Students should keep carefully all examination papers from the recent PPAs or mock examinations which have been returned to them by their teachers.

Mrs Stott, the Head of Sixth Form, had already spoken to all students in Years 12 & 13 and advised them that all information about examinations will be released through Ofqual. Students who have NEA components to complete in their BTECs should to complete these in the usual way. They have already been advised on how to do this by their teachers. Before the dismissal of Year 11 this morning, their Head of Year, Miss Dulley, and I spoke to all students who were in school, with the same advice that you receive in this letter. The Sixth Form team will keep in touch with Year 11 to support their transition into Year 12.

It is a very sad end to such a period of sustained hard work by the students. We want them to be aware that however disappointing or upsetting it may be that the examinations will not take place, it is the learning and knowledge they take with them that is the true achievement. This is the foundation on which all future learning will be built.

All information and future announcements about examinations will be made available on the Ofqual website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual> and the school will also keep you informed. Please try and ensure that your daughter is not misled or upset by misinformation or speculation on social media.

Final advice

These are very difficult and troubling times. I am very grateful for the patience and support that you as parents have already shown. Should you need to contact the school please email the Key Stage Coordinator for your daughter who will reply as soon as possible.

In form time your daughter will have had opportunity to see the message from Cardinal Nichols linked [HERE](#). In the message he explains the importance of prayer and spiritual communion that will help to nurture our faith and well-being. He also asks us all to be kind and wholeheartedly generous. I hope that however difficult the times ahead may be, we can all hold on to that thought and act with love and understanding. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Collins,
Headteacher