



Date: 19 March 2020

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Dear Parents/Carers

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, we will continue to be open, in a central location 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 23rd March, and through this period, our schools will aim to provide care for these children whose parents/carers have said to us that they require it. The timings for this will be between 10am to 2pm. They should report to the library each day and enter the site via the main entrance gate near East. Children who do not fall into the groups listed above should remain at home with appropriate care.

The second key announcement is that tests and exams will not take place this summer. For children and young people, who have worked so hard to prepare for their SATs, GCSEs or A levels, this may be upsetting, and we sympathise with them. At the same time, we understand the decision the Government has made, and 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 may 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.

We would like to ensure that students in Yr11 and 13, whose last day of school it is tomorrow, is a celebratory one. Year 11s should come in in non-school uniform without a bag. Year 11 and 13 will then have a



celebratory lunch from 11.30am which will give staff a chance to say goodbye too. They will then depart by 12.15pm. Year 7s will come in as normal and depart at 3.10pm.

Our outstanding staff are undertaking immense work to ensure your children are supported whilst schools are closed. Students should aim to follow their school timetable each day to ensure they keep in a routine. Each lesson they can use Edulink to access their work. I would also like to encourage you to help students avoid using their phones within the timings of the school day to ensure they focus on their work and to support their mental health and wellbeing.

Finally, we will continue to work with you moving forward on this so students can continue to access learning. In the meantime, 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,

Mark Little

Principal

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