



Date: 20 March 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

Last night at midnight, the Government published more guidance on the closure of schools. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear.

**If children can stay safely at home, they should,
to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

More information for parents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in the wider society.

Key Principles that the Government have set out:

Please follow these:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

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2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them. *Currently this will be at our school. But please be aware that this may change if we cannot provide sufficient and appropriate staffing.*
3. Parents should **not** rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.
5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible. (You may need to confirm this with your employer)

During the school closure, your child's non-attendance will not be marked as an unauthorised absence. This will not affect your child's attendance record.

I will keep you informed of any changes to the school closure via the school website and parent e-mail. If you have any questions on whole school arrangements, please e-mail the school admin@queensburyacademy.com

I would be grateful if you can keep up to date with the Public Health England guidance on Coronavirus so that you can keep yourself and your family safe. Use the website below, which is currently being updated daily:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The government has asked schools to only remain open to students whose parents are critical workers or have an Education Health and Care Plan or social worker. If your child falls into one of these categories, they are eligible to attend school.

For safeguarding and planning reasons we must know in advance which students are intending to come into school during the school closure. We have requested this information and are contacting parents who have returned forms today. Any further requests can be asked for via a form on our website which will be available on Monday.

Those who we have contacted and have offered them to attend school on Monday 23 March should be in non-school uniform and report to the library **at 10am**. Please note that the normal school behaviour policy applies whilst children are in school. The school will be open in a caring capacity rather than a teaching capacity and students will be supervised completing the work set by their normal teachers.

For next week until we know the number of students attending school, please can your child bring a packed lunch with them unless your child is in receipt of a free school meal.



Parents should assume there is no public transport available and should make their own arrangements for their child to travel to and from school.

The school will be open Monday to Friday from 10am – 2pm.

Free School Meals

If your child is not attending school and is eligible for a free school meal, they should arrive at the entrance to the East canteen between 12 to 12.30pm.

It is important to underline that schools remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

I appreciate that this is a difficult time for families and children, but I can assure you the school is taking every step possible to follow government guidance.

Our staff are working incredibly hard to play their role in supporting the government in their strategy to contain this virus. I know that you will join with me in thanking them for their dedication and commitment. Please do all you can to support them and help them at this time. Please work with us to protect them too and follow all Public Health Guidance.

As the situation evolves, we will continue to update you on how our plans change.

May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mark Little

Principal

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