

18 March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Today the Prime Minister has announced that schools across England will close at the end of the day on Friday and that has pre-empted any plans we had to only close partially. However, as we want to support the NHS and other key sectors, we will ensure there is provision for children of 'key' workers' as directed by the government.

Key Worker Parent/Carers

We have already been in contact with you about whether you identify as a key worker or work in the emergency services. We will be emailing you shortly with details of the provision offered. It is helpful to know if you will be taking up that provision so we can plan teaching staff and catering etc.

If you are uncertain if you meet this criteria please check the Government or BBC news website.

Home Learning

In my last letter, I explained that we would set work on Show My Homework. All children have been shown this and know where the resources are to support themselves at home. Children must log in and do the work set for their class. Please do not worry if this has not been set by their normal class teacher. We are looking to make efficient use of resources and this may include putting one member of staff in each faculty in charge of one year group rather than lots of different classes.

Supporting Vulnerable Families

Tomorrow we will contact the families of children in receipt of free school meals to organise alternative food arrangements.

Families of particularly vulnerable students in our school, for example students with EHCPs or those with a social worker, will be contacted by our SEN or Pastoral staff regarding support during the school closure.

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern during this period of closure please contact our Safeguarding Team by email. Please mark the title of the email for the Safeguarding Team. Please also visit our website Safeguarding page for more information.

Communication With Parents & Carers

We will continue our contact with you via the website, email, texts and social media.

Exams

The Prime Minister has not given further details at present about how Year 11s will be graded but there is already a procedure in place for students who are unable to sit exams. My best guess is that they will use this and expand it for this year group. Whilst it is distressing, we know the exam boards will do their very best to be fair and we will always

fight for our students. If any student finds their place at college is at risk, I will personally contact the principal on our student's behalf.

As soon as I have more information, I will let you know. We appreciate that this will be an anxious time for our Year 11 and their families and we will support you with the right information as it is released to us.

I very much appreciate it if you can restrict phone calls to the school for the moment so we can focus on getting things in place for the children.

Thank you for the support and understanding at this difficult time. We will do what we can to support our community over the coming weeks. My very best wishes go out to you and your families.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Watson