



The Winstanley School

Widening Horizons | Enabling Excellence

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20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sad to be writing to inform you that The Winstanley School will be closed from the end of the school day today - Friday 20th March. We will miss your children and being part of the fantastic community which makes up our school. We look forward to the time when we will all be back together again. We will have assemblies today for all students to explain how things will work over the coming weeks. This letter summarises the key aspects of our plans.

School Closure

- **The school is closed to MOST students**
- **Children of key workers** can come into school as normal. The government have made clear that this **should only be if you are unable to find any other child care**. It is very important to minimise the number of children in school.
- A list of key workers and explanations can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>
- You will be receiving a link to a survey today to complete immediately if you think you may be in one of these essential jobs. Anyone not sure can fill it in anyway. **We need responses by 13.00 today.**
- A small number of other children are allowed in school and we will contact those parents separately.
- The students who are in school will have time to complete the work set as well as doing a variety of other activities.

Year 11

- The Government has announced that exams are not taking place this May and June.
- They have said they will ensure that students get what they deserve and need to progress in their further academic studies and careers.
- At this point they have not said how they will do this, but predicted grades are clearly going to be used in some way. When we know what this means I will let you know.
- We had an assembly yesterday and explained to Year 11 the importance of continuing to work and ensuring that we have got evidence so we can get them the best grades possible.
- I was so impressed with our Year 11s today and how they have approached their studies over this year - please do congratulate them.

Executive Head Chris Parkinson. **Head of School** Dave Bennett. **Deputy Head of School** Fiona Le Cras.

Assistant Heads of School Wesley Collins. Annabel Roberts. Jason Scrimshire

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Free School Meals

- We are not sure what will happen - the government have suggested they will organise this.
- If this doesn't happen we will make sure that we will have a system in place - please bear with us as we get this sorted.

Work at home

- Teachers have been working hard making sure that students in all years have work in place and that they know how to access it.
- Students should not worry if they find the work difficult, they should do their best and they can always email their teacher for help or assistance. Don't worry, we will sort things out when we return.
- There will be some feedback from teachers to students. The amount will depend on the year group.
- It is really important that students do work - it will make sure they don't fall behind and will also provide routine - remember this is not an extended holiday.
- We will not set work over Easter holidays although some students will be in school for childcare.

Students who do not have suitable ICT at home:

- We want students to be able to access the work set online. If you need ICT devices, please contact us at school and we will organise this as soon as we can - hopefully early next week.

Keeping in Touch

- We will continue to make announcements through social media and the website and through text and emails.
- If you wish to contact the school please email: schoolclosure@winstanleyschool.org.uk and we will aim to reply as soon as possible.

Mental Health

- As I said in an earlier letter there is excellent advice about looking after our mental health on this website: <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Thank you for all your support over this difficult time and thank you for your kind words. Staff have worked tirelessly to try to make sure that students get the best deal possible. We are a great community and I am convinced that this challenging time will make us stronger as we continue to show our key SHINE value of supporting others.

Kind regards - stay well



Dave Bennett

Head of School