

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,



Re: Closure Notification

Following the updated government announcement made by Boris Johnson this evening, we will be closing the school to the majority of students at the end of Friday 20th March. Tomorrow (Thursday), will continue to be a normal school day open to all year groups and I hope that Friday will be the same (subject to safe level of staffing).

You will also have noticed that schools are going to be expected to stay open for certain groups of children, including those whose parents are classed as 'key workers', for example, those working in the NHS and emergency services (as well as other workers yet to be fully specified). This supports our wider community by not adding even more strain to the services who are on the frontline, dealing with coronavirus. At this stage, there are still lots of questions about what exactly this will entail and, aside from saying that we will of course do everything we possibly can to accommodate this, we are not in a position to say any more. If you are a member of these services we will be issuing a modified google form different to the one I shared ready for a partial closure as the identified workers have now changed. We will, of course, communicate more as soon as possible – and certainly before the end of the week.

Similarly, I realise that the announcement about exams not going ahead as planned will be causing a lot of worry. Again, we know no more than you at this point and will pass on any information as soon as we receive it. We will meet our Year 11 and 13 students first thing in the morning to relieve anxiety and discuss how students should be focusing over the coming weeks.

During our closure teachers will set home learning remotely using Show My Homework (SMHW) so that you will be able to monitor and support completion of learning at home. More details, including a timetable that students need to follow for submission of work will be shared on Friday. Please make use of the SMHW App which your child already has access to, (passwords were previously provided to parents). Through SMHW students might be directed to use resources on our google classrooms, or other teaching platforms such as Seneca Learning, My Maths or Tassomai etc. Instructions will be made clear to students about how this work should be returned or submitted to teachers. Please support them with this work and email their teacher during the closure period if you have any questions.

In the meantime, I would appreciate it if people could resist the temptation to contact school with non-urgent questions; our support staff are already at the limit of capacity in dealing with calls and emails and are unlikely to be able to provide answers in most cases anyway. As I say, we will be in touch as soon as we know more. I will keep you updated during the fast-moving developments in dealing with COVID-19, though I ask that all parents continue to monitor our website for news.

Please emphasise the imperative of supportive and cooperative behaviour from all our young people, both in school and in our wider community, as we continue to run on reduced capacity. Please get in touch if you have any urgent questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Brown
Head of School

