



MURRAY PARK SCHOOL

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5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: URGENT UPDATE - keyworker/vulnerable family school is open; school is closed to all other students until further notice. On-line lessons will be provided following students' normal timetables.

You will be aware that Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has announced another national lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that school has to close again until further notice. This letter seeks to set out our plans and support for the coming weeks and months.

On-line Learning

I have asked all staff to provide all year groups with on-line live lessons in coming days. Staff will deliver the students' normal timetable online. In a very few cases, the member of staff may just set resources, where they are unable to deliver a live lesson.

Device Access – including mobile internet access

Thank you to those who have made contact to ask for a laptop. Many have already been distributed in the last few days – if you have requested one and have not yet received it, a member of staff will be in contact in coming days.

If you do not have a device such as a laptop or a tablet in your household, suitable for accessing Microsoft Teams, or you do not have access to the internet and require a dongle to access wi-fi, please email the senior team on slt@murraypark.derby.sch.uk and we will endeavour to provide one.

Year 11 Exams Cancelled

All Year 11 summer exams have been cancelled by the government. We have also taken the decision, in the interests of health and safety, to cancel the Engineering and Construction exams - for Murray Park students - due to take place next week. We will review the situation in relation to Health and Social Care, Hair and Beauty, Digital IT and Creative Media exams, due to take place from the end of January to March, once we have more information from the exam boards. We know this will lead to mixed emotions. Please be assured that all the work already completed to demonstrate a student's ability in their subject will not go to waste.

Planned mock dates have been postponed. Mock exams will now take place in normal classrooms, on our return, with the date to be confirmed. The results of these tests, along with evidence from previous assessments, classwork and homework, will be used to create the final grade which will be submitted to the exam boards. We are awaiting clarification, from the government, about how these grades will be calculated.

Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options

The Year 9 options process will move on-line this year. The parents' evening will take place on Tuesday 12th February, via phone call with class teachers. To prepare for this, there will be an Options Q&A Evening Tuesday 2nd February. Mr Hagen will be in touch closer to time with more information.



Mental Health Support

We know that going into a second lockdown, and a period of on-line learning, will be tough. We are here to support. Please make contact with your child's tutor if you are worried about how your child/your family are coping; we can help you to access the support you require.

The following organisations offer support in these unprecedented times:

Support for young people: text YM to 85258

Support for parents: helpline 08088025544

https://youngminds.org.uk/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI7camwveE7gIVTO3tCh3U2Ao3EAAYASAAEgLzyPD_BwE

<https://www.annafreud.org/coronavirus-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/>

Vulnerable and Keyworker Student School

We have opened our vulnerable and keyworker school, in a similar way to the lockdown earlier in the year. This is for children of parents who are unable to have them at home for the week due to work commitments. Please see the government approved list of keyworker job roles eligible: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

Please email slt@murraypark.derby.sch.uk if you would like to secure a space, so we can ensure we have the correct staffing in place.

Free School Meals

All parents/carers of students who are in receipt of free school meals, will receive food boxes from Monday 11th January to cover the equivalent lunches for the week. If your child attends the key worker/vulnerable school, they will be given food in school. Please see the separate message, if this applies to you, giving details about collection. You must respond to this message to confirm whether or not you require a parcel.

COVID Testing

The testing kits have arrived in school; we have hired an agency to conduct the testing and assigned an area in school for the testing to take place. Initially we will only test staff and students currently in school – and only then those who have given permission. Further information will be sent once we have it.

I trust I have covered all your questions and concerns. Should you have any further queries, please email us on slt@murraypark.derby.sch.uk. Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Caley
Headteacher