



18 March 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

**School will be open for the remainder of this week for all students
Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March 2020.**

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing with updated guidance regarding the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

Each day we have been doing our very best to remain open for all students with significantly reduced staff on site. The safeguarding and well-being of students and staff is our priority, together with the maintenance of effective learning in lessons. We recognise that school is a place of certainty for families, where routines are being maintained that support parents' work commitments and requirements. Our students have reacted to these challenges with maturity, good sense and compassion. Staff have worked with great professionalism, care and support for our students and one another.

This evening the government has announced that all schools will close on Friday 20 March 2020 until further notice.

The government has asked that schools continue to offer educational provision for children of 'key workers' such as NHS staff, police and delivery drivers. We expect clarification of who qualifies as a 'key worker' tomorrow. In addition, there is an expectation that vulnerable children including those who have a social worker and those with educational health and care plans can access school. We will be seeking greater clarity on these matters tomorrow and will confirm the school's approach to this provision.

As noted in previous communications, we have planned an approach for 'Home Learning' that relies on students accessing 'Class Charts' and their school email accounts. (See below). We have been reminding students throughout the last two weeks of these essential digital platforms with log in and password details. For the small number of students that do not have access to the internet, paper based resources have been prepared.

From Monday 23 March 2020 we will action our Home Learning Protocol. Students with identified additional needs have been assigned a member of staff who will be responsible for overseeing their well-being and ability to access their work. This is in addition to the planned weekly contact from their form tutor.

School will be in touch with you again tomorrow via the website and social media platforms with further updates as required.

Mr Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher



Purpose

When school is suspended and Home Learning is implemented, the following guidelines will be actioned. The intended outcome of these guidelines is to place the curriculum at the forefront of school's work and, as far as possible, the ongoing academic progress of students.

Teachers

1. 'Class Charts' and school email will be the means of communication between school and home and vice versa.
2. For each lesson which is suspended, a learning activity should be set on Class Charts. The aim should be for this to be posted as early as possible, ideally before the day of the lesson, or at the latest, by the time of the lesson.
3. There is an expectation that teachers will check their school email account to respond to feedback from students and provide feedback before the next lesson.
4. Learning activities that are set should reflect the length of the lesson.
5. Wherever possible, work set should reflect the normal curriculum objectives. It is understood that learning activities may differ from those in a classroom setting.
6. It is the student's responsibility to complete the work or communicate to their teacher why it is not completed.
7. Teachers should take into account adaptations to Home Learning for students identified as requiring additional support or with special educational needs. Work should be accessible at home and appropriate expectations of what can be produced stated.

Subject Leader

1. Should provide support to colleagues in their teams to ensure that work is provided as required.
2. Should regularly check in with their teams to ensure that staff are consistent in their approaches to Home Learning and address any concerns that may arise.

Tutors

1. A personal tutor group message at the start and end of the week offering support, and letting students know that they can email for support if necessary.

Students

1. Should be online and follow their normal timetable to enable teachers to respond to student needs and keep structure to the day.
2. Students should complete all set work.
3. Students must use email to communicate with their teachers and ask questions if they do not understand.

Parents

1. Should encourage and support their child's / children's work – including finding an appropriate place to work, checking that set work is completed by the end of each day and ensuring that the normal school timetable for the day is followed.
2. Should contact the subject teacher / tutor by email if there are any concerns.