



27 MARCH 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

WEEKLY UPDATE

Following the government's decision last week, the school is now closed to the majority of students however, it will remain open to offer childcare to Key Workers (as defined by government) and children who are regarded as vulnerable.

As we are in the midst of exceptional circumstances, we continue to be committed to support our local community while being mindful of the health and wellbeing of students and staff alike. I am aware that the working hours and shift patterns of Key Workers may change quickly and thus if your requirements for childcare changes can I ask that you please let us know as soon as you can so that we can amend our registers. It is crucial we have accurate daily registers to ensure the safety of our students.

At the moment I am uncertain as to when the school will reopen, however when information is made available to us, I will inform you all accordingly. As we will be operating a "minimum staff" approach I have suspended my weekly EBulletin however I hope to keep you informed via email.

Thank you to the many parents and carers who have contacted me and staff over the past week offering thanks and words of support. Your appreciation means a great deal to us all.

Many students have also contacted me asking a number of important questions which I have answered below:

What is going to happen to my examinations results? It has been confirmed that external examinations for the 2020 cohort will not go ahead and the examination authorities will issue grades based on a number of factors including we believe, prior attainment and current levels of working. We are keeping a close watch on the developments around examination awards and I will keep you informed as further information is made available.

Should I be doing work at home? The simple answer here is "Yes". It will be beneficial to all students to continue to do school based work at home. This will support learning, preparation to return and their mental health by keeping their minds active. There are clear activities and learning resources available on our Resource Hub that can be accessed through our website. Completing the Year 11 tasks will also offer excellent preparation for those wishing to join us our very successful Sixth Form provision is September.

Should I throw my books away? No, please retain all your exercise books, folders and project work as we may need to call on it if examination boards require evidence plus the content is critical to the work all students will do when school is back in session.

Will “The Prom” still go ahead? At the moment I suggest that we all consider the Prom as postponed. When I have any indication of when school will reopen and further information from the venue, I will inform parents, carers and students.

Can I still get a Leavers Hoodie? I believe that an email has been sent to students in Year 11 with regard to the hoodies. Hoodies can still be ordered and delivered directly to your home. If you are unsure please contact Pupil Services via our school email address. Please mark the email “Leavers Hoodies”.

As we move forward please ensure that your children adhere to the guidance on social distancing. We have had reports that this week young people have been outdoors unsupervised, sometimes in groups, clearly flouting the government instructions around staying home and social distancing. Whilst I am sure that none of our students were involved I do ask that parents and carers insist that all young people stay at home unless for one of the permitted exceptions. Young people must not treat this time as an additional holiday even though with the current good weather it may feel like one.

Thank you for your support in encouraging children with their work. If your child is struggling with something and they cannot work it through, encourage them to take a break or move on to another task to ensure home learning remains a positive experience.

I wish you well over the coming weeks and although I will not bombard you with emails, I will send out updates as necessary. From next week however, you may be contacted by school to check that your child has been able to access our remote learning platform if it appears they have not yet done so.

Best wishes and take care.

Mr B Heeley
Headteacher