

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on our response to the Coronavirus outbreak in light of the government's announcement yesterday that all schools must close from Friday 20th March 2020.

School to close from Friday 20th March 2020:

The amount of guidance that we have been given is very limited as you can imagine, given that these are unprecedented circumstances. Along with all other schools nationally, ***we have been instructed to close from Friday 20th March for the foreseeable future.*** In addition to this, it has been announced that the summer exams (GCSE and A Levels) will no longer take place.

Early Closure to all pupils on Friday 20th March 2020:

As you know, we have managed to remain open this week in spite of the significant staffing challenges that we have been facing. ***We are now announcing that we will be closing to all pupils at 12.30pm tomorrow due to these staffing shortages.*** Pupils will follow a revised timetable for the morning which will include a PSHE lesson about coping with the virus and developing good habits and routines for working at home. Pupils will also be able to have a hot meal before they leave at 12.30pm. I apologise for any disruption that this may cause however please be assured that the safety of all pupils is our number one priority.

Learning during the enforced closure:

In response to this enforced closure we have put the following measures in place to limit the impact this will have on your child's education:

- Lessons will continue on our on-line learning platform following your child's usual timetable. Many of you will be aware that we use Class Charts to set extended learning – we will now be using this to set work for each lesson every day;
- At around 9.00am each morning, your child's form tutor will send a bulletin out to their tutor group with any key messages for the day. Pupils will then be expected to complete the tasks set on Class Charts and submit their work to the relevant class teacher via email;
- For maths, work will be set using Hegarty maths and pupils must make sure that they have a login and password for this. If pupils need a reminder of their login details, this can be obtained from Miss Kerr via email (a.kerr@kingswolverhampton.co.uk). Some of the work set for your child may also be sent via Microsoft Teams and this will allow the teacher to give feedback and offer support as the pupils are working;
- If pupils have not logged into Class Charts then this will be flagged up by their form tutor and your child will be sent an email, checking whether or not there is an issue. Your child's form tutor will expect to receive a reply by the following morning. If no reply is forthcoming, then your child's Head of Year will make contact with you via telephone to check that everything is okay. We are seeking to ensure that pupils stick to a good learning routine during this time and that we can support them if there are any issues.

In addition to these plans, we have also prepared a presentation for pupils explaining what is expected of them and how they can look after themselves during this period of enforced absence from school. This is available to view on the school's website and VLE.

Whilst we are happy that these plans will ensure that pupils are still learning, we accept that this will not be as good as them being at school every day, attending their normal lessons. Any additional help, support and encouragement (or checking!) that you can offer them will be much appreciated.

Educational Provision for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Pupils:

We are currently awaiting information regarding the provision for the children of Key Workers and for vulnerable pupils and we will send additional information once we have a plan in place. It may be that school is open over the next few weeks for a small number of pupils who fall into these categories.

Free School Meals:

For pupils who are eligible for free school meals, we will be sending out further information on how you can access this free meal during the enforced closure. We are hoping that there will be further guidance from the government on this matter in the very near future.

Summer GCSE and A Level Exams:

We are currently awaiting information and guidance on how grades will be awarded to pupils this year. We have spoken to pupils this morning and reassured them that they will not be disadvantaged by this decision. For pupils in Year 11, we have made it clear that this decision will not negatively impact on their chance of securing a place in our 6th form from September. We have also stressed the importance of continuing with their study so that they are fully prepared for the demands of their A Level courses in September. We will send out further information as soon as this is received. In the meantime, exam boards are putting out their own statements such as this one from AQA: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus-updates>

We will be sending out regular updates on all aspects of school life over the next few weeks with further information as we get it.

I would like to thank you all for your continuing support during this very difficult period. There has been an amazing response from everyone associated with the school over the past few weeks. I would like to wish you all the very best and we hold you and your loved ones in our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time.

Please do keep in touch with us if you require any support, advice or guidance and continue to look for updates and further information on our social media channels and our website – we will be happy to help where we can.

Best wishes



Mr Ludlow
Principal