



19 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I am sure that all of you will have seen yesterday's announcement about the partial closure of schools as directed by the Secretary of State for Education. I am writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday 20 March until further notice**. We have put extensive plans into place for the use of online learning (through Google Classroom and other platforms). For this reason, I can confidently tell you that learning for all students will continue. Guidance for all pupils has been placed on our website to help them to stay safe online as well as how to access the online learning resources. The teaching staff will update these resources on a daily basis and as far as possible ensure the education provision for your child continues.

The government has asked schools to remain open for vulnerable students and for those of 'key workers'. As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories. If you think you fall into one of these categories we would ask you to complete the online form found on our website [here](#). We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and we will endeavour to provide a weekly update from the leadership team.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn. Subjects have and will continue to put together resources which mirror what students would have been studying in school. These resources can be accessed via Google Classrooms. Information on accessing the classroom can be found on the school website. Subjects will be posting work on a weekly basis, some of which will need to be submitted through the Google Classroom. It is important that students continue with their studies. Should staff have concerns that students are not accessing or completing work parents/carers will be contacted. In the event that students or parents wish to contact subject teachers, details can be found of subject leads on the school website who will be able to answer any questions or queries.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.



What we won't be able to go ahead with

We understand that the recent announcement of the postponement of GCSE and A Level examinations will have caused much anxiety and upset for many families. I would like to confirm that at present, no decision has been taken by either the Department for Education or Ofqual regarding the assessment of these courses. We will of course notify you as soon as we are aware of what the next steps will be. We have spoken to Years 11 and 13 today to reiterate some of the broad principles we will follow:

- If we are asked for an assessment of students it will be a holistic and not based on any one piece of assessment such as mock examinations.
- Any predictions will be moderated by the school to ensure consistency
- Predictions will be fair and will take into account the stress and disruption which has inevitably impacted upon students in recent months
- Predictions will take into account recent improvement and any evidence of further improvement over coming weeks with work completed via the online portal.

We will not be able to continue with any school trips, breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, or any extra-curricular activities at the moment, although we will update this as staffing becomes more stable and we learn more from the government.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via the email address on the website.

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T J Leverage'.

T J Leverage MA (Cantab)
Executive Principal