

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, all schools are closing to the vast majority of students on Monday until further notice.

All year groups will now have Real Time Remote Learning.

What is Real Time Remote Learning?

Please see the [attached email](#), which was sent to all parents on the 17 March.

Please also see the [attached presentation](#), which was the assembly we gave all students on Tuesday 17 March.

Keeping positive, keeping well

As we go into an unknown length of remote learning, it is vital that we all stay optimistic, believing and knowing that great learning will still happen. We also have to keep each other safe and well:

- ★ Get plenty of sleep
- ★ Look after your posture, especially as students and parents will be working on computers more and much less mobile than when at work / school
- ★ Take exercise every day. As long as everyone keeps a safe distance, there are lots of outdoor activities as well as indoor exercises we can all do.

This a great opportunity for family time together.

If students need any pastoral support, their **Pastoral Leaders** are available by email. Our **College Counsellor**, Chris King, will also be available and the plan is that he will be on site for face to face meetings. Support sessions with him are 'triaged' through the Pastoral Leaders.

School provision

While we are closed for most students, schools are being asked to deliver a provision for a limited number of children. Late last night, the government released their guidance on who is classified as a critical or key worker and which children are categorised as vulnerable.

Vulnerable children are children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care \(EHC\) plans](#). If you are a [critical or key worker](#), or the parent of a child who is categorised as vulnerable, there is no requirement to send your children to school if you do not need or wish to do so.

The government has also stipulated that many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Therefore, every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.**

It is with this in mind that the government has asked that we all follow these key principles:

1. To adhere to the government guidelines around social distancing to curtail the spread of germs, if it is at all possible for your children to be at home, then they should be.
2. You have been asked not to rely on childcare from those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying medical conditions.

3. You should do everything you can to ensure your children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. You are responsible for ensuring that your children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Cancelled examinations

I will be in touch again regarding the government announcements about the GCSE and A Levels once further information has been released. Once we have fully understood the implications for us and our students in these year groups, please understand that our response may not be immediate, we will endeavour to communicate with you as early as we can.

New building

Yesterday, we had a buildings meeting and everything is still on track for us to move in ready for a September start. Hopefully, I will see us all back to school before then.

Reporting absence

Don't forget to report on Edulink (in the usual way) any days when your child is too unwell to do school work.

Term dates

Please see my separate letter about term and holiday dates. The last day of term for students is on Tuesday 21 July and term starts again for students on Tuesday 8th September 2020.

Thank you for all your fortitude, resilience and good humour as we move into 'uncharted waters'. As I said to Year 11 yesterday, I (and all the staff) will miss them; we will miss all our students. We will miss their excitement, their humour, their ideas and especially seeing their faces when they have those 'light bulb' moments when they understand a new and difficult concept.

Take care,

Hugh Hennebry
Principal