

20th March 2020

Schoolcomms and on website

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to inform you of the advice of Public Health England (PHE) and the Government, the school will be closed from Friday 20th March for most students until further notice.

It had been incredibly important to us that we remain open for as long as possible so that our students maintain a routine in what is a new and confusing time.

We are remaining open for parents/carers who work in frontline medical or emergency services roles, delivery drivers and those whose ability to work is jeopardised by a closure. If your child has an EHCP they should also continue to attend school.

A national vouchers scheme is planned for those on free school meals.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for supporting us here at the school as we navigate through these challenging times and also in terms of your sensible and measured responses around any decisions to self-isolate. We realise that these decisions are hard for families to make.

For those students at home it is our expectation that they continue with their learning during the closure. All timetabled lessons will be posted on Schoology with the required learning resources. If your child would like support with their learning, please ask them to contact their teacher through Schoology. The work set should not necessitate students needing to be on the computer all day.

We would ask, however, that students and families are considerate of the likelihood that some of our staff may be at times unable to provide this, either through ill-health, or due to the need to balance their work and caring for their own family members.

The Prime Minister has said that public examinations will not take place in May and June and that he will ensure that children due to sit crucial exams will get the qualifications they need. Though at this stage he was unable to go into detail regarding how this will happen.

During this period of school closure a number of families may benefit in the support available from a number of other organisations and agencies, both local and national, details of which you will find attached to this letter and on our [website](#). Many of our students benefit from the range of therapeutic support services that we offer within school and these will naturally be temporarily unavailable during our closure. Details of a range of alternative sources of assistance can also be found in the document attached.

Some students may find the lack of structure and routine unsettling. For some families, it may help if a routine or a timetable is in place; this could include a regular wake up call, a time by which they are ready to log-on and study, a fixed lunch time and some regular exercise. Not all students will feel the need for this, but many will find a routine calming. It may also make it easier to re-adjust to our normal routine when school re-opens.

We know that good communication will be essential in the weeks ahead and will communicate with parents/carers at least once a week through Schoolcomms each Tuesday with any relevant updates. If there are any significant announcements in between we will keep you informed as and when they come. In addition, we will also forward you the updates that we send to students about their learning and wellbeing. These will also be posted on the website going forwards.

This has been a very challenging situation for us to manage and the wellbeing of all our students and our community is our overriding priority. We appreciate the support, patience and understanding shown by so many of you and hope you all keep safe and well over the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Dohel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ms T Dohel
Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Cullum', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mrs A Cullum
Executive Principal