

18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 Update

I am sure you will have heard the Government has announced this evening that schools will close until further notice at the end of the school day on Friday 20th March. The duration of closure is unknown.

At this time, we are making plans daily based on the same information you receive on the news and the broad headlines of school closures. We are now awaiting further details to be confirmed, to assist our planning regarding supporting vulnerable pupils and children of key workers.

I appreciate the uncertainty and anxiety that this announcement will make. We are working as a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Governing body together with other local schools to understand the fine details and plan accordingly. We are committed to supporting our communities.

Based on current staffing, the school will remain open as usual tomorrow and Friday. In these uncertain times, it is important that all pupils who are able to attend school do so as normal, remembering to follow the Government advice and information provide by GTS in previous updates.

For Year 11 pupils, we acknowledge that this will be a very worrying time. The headline tonight stated GCSE exams will not be held this Summer. This evening the Ofqual website did not provide sufficient detail on how examination judgement will be made. We will continue to provide information around the Summer exam series for Year 11 pupils as and when we receive it.

The SLT will meet again tomorrow and make decisions regarding our next steps. I will update all parents again tomorrow in my daily update. However, as indicated by the Prime Minister tonight we will be making arrangements to ensure provision for vulnerable pupils and children of "Key Workers". Key workers have yet to be defined and I will be contacting you again ASAP tomorrow to try to identify which families/pupils will be wishing or needing to access school provision.

We appreciate that many parents and pupils will have questions at this time. Unfortunately, we are not currently in a position to provide comprehensive answers, but we are working hard to support all of those within our community.

We are grateful for your continued support in these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher