

19th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

COVID-19 Update

I was hoping tonight to be able to provide greater clarity regarding the coming weeks but unfortunately, advice and guidance from the Government this evening has been somewhat disappointing.

I have written to the parents of Year 11 pupils today and whilst there are very few answers, I hope they are assured that their children will not be disadvantaged.

We are planning for a number of scenarios; ongoing remote or online learning for the majority, provision in school for a small number of identified pupils, provision for those who are entitled to free school meals (FSM) and provision over the holiday period. None of these scenarios we have experienced before.

Our plan now is to provide further detail tomorrow but for the time being please be aware that we will be writing to all parents in order to identify what the Government deem to be “key workers”.

Key workers could be defined as follows:

- NHS Health service (all grades of staff)
- GP’s surgeries
- Pharmacies
- Fire service
- Police service
- Social services
- Social care service
- Education - Teachers/school support staff who are actively working in partially open schools
- Armed services
- Food supermarkets - workers / drivers

As soon as we have receive guidance we will be writing to you again to identify if your occupation is within the identified categories and whether or not you would require provision at GTS.

We will write to pupils who are eligible for FSM tonight and outline the provision we have been able to put in place. Providing for our most vulnerable families and pupils will be an ongoing priority for us and we will develop our strategy over time, in line with guidance and what we can achieve working with other agencies.

However, from Monday for the majority of pupils we will be initiating the online/remote learning plan for which you have already received “log ins” etc. You will all receive detailed guidance how this will work and the expectations of pupils tomorrow.

I sincerely wish I could provide greater clarity but as I type, I am listening to “Question Time” on the BBC and there are clearly no firm answers. Please be assured the staff at GTS are doing all they can to support the young people and families in their care.

Keep safe and continue to do what you can to support your family and friends whilst adhering to the guidance provided.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher

