

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

As you will be aware, schools in England have been directed to remain open at present. With the situation changing frequently, we are writing to inform you of our plans should we be directed to close the school.

In the first instance, we will ensure that all parents/carers receive confirmation of this directly from the school. This will use our normal channels of communication- email, text and Facebook.

We have been working on contingency plans for what happens regarding education if there is a school closure and wanted to share these with you below, so you are fully aware of our intentions.

All students

Our advice will be for all students to aim to follow their **usual school timetable** in completing schoolwork **at home**. This work will be provided for all students. The reason for this is as follows:

- Maintaining a routine helps children to feel secure and reduces anxiety
- Class teachers will be available on or near to the usual lesson time so that they can offer any support, check work or respond to questions
- Students are less likely to fall behind in their studies and will be more confident on their return to school. This will support their emotional well being as well as ensuring that they are prepared for assessments that will be taking place for all students in the summer term.

Year 11

The school is preparing hard copy work packs for all students in Year 11. This will contain revision materials, workbooks, practice exam papers and work schemes. It is **essential** that Year 11 continue to prepare for their exams as we do not anticipate that the timescales for their final exams will change and not working will significantly disadvantage students from achieving their best grades. Class teachers will be available via email to support all queries and to check work during lesson times.

We will also be providing access to electronic work too and will ensure that passwords and log in details are shared with students, parents and carers.

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Year 10

Like Year 11, we are preparing work packs for all students. These will contain revision materials and practice exam questions that will support the preparation for Year 10 assessments which are due to take place the week commencing the 20th April.

Year 10 will also have access to online resources and teachers will be available for support during lessons.

Years 7-9

Work will be provided for students via Class Charts, our online portal where all homework tasks are usually posted. All students should be able to log in to this, but we will also provide remote support to ensure these can be accessed. The majority of work for students in Years 7-9 will be web based as we know that most of our school has access to this at least via a phone or tablet and in many instances a laptop or computer. There will not be an expectation for work to be printed at home as we realise that not all households have access to this facility.

Attendance

It is essential that students continue to attend school as normal at present if they are well enough to do so. The Government advice is for people to self-isolate for seven days only if they have a new continuous cough and/or high temperature. I am pleased to report that attendance today has been high, and the vast majority of our school population are currently fit and well enough to be in school. Good hygiene at home and in school e.g. regularly washing hands with soap for 20 seconds makes a difference to the spread of germs so please encourage this too. Your continued support throughout this situation is needed and appreciated as we work together during this time period.

We hope that this helps to answer questions you may have regarding what will happen in the event of a school closure due to Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

We ask for full parent and carer support throughout this time period as it is especially unsettling for children. Our goal is to ensure that all students feel safe, supported and are able to continue to learn so that they are not disadvantaged by the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Claire White
Deputy Headteacher