

19 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Following announcements by the Government yesterday, I would like to provide you with the following updates:

School closures

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that schools will close for all pupils, apart from the most vulnerable and children of key workers, from Monday 23 March 2020, in order to support the Government's action plan to combat the Coronavirus.

Vulnerable children and children of key workers

We have written a separate letter regarding the extended school opening for vulnerable children and children of key workers.

Distance learning resources

Schools have been preparing for this eventuality for some time now and have been developing distance learning resources. The schools will communicate how pupils can access these separately. From Monday, your child will be expected to work at home and spend regular blocks of time completing the activities set by the school, unless they are in the vulnerable children or children of key worker groups. We very much appreciate your support in ensuring our pupils complete these tasks to the best of their ability.

Free schools meals and Post 16 Bursary

We will be providing meals for those who are in receipt of free school meals and making weekly payments to those receiving the Post 16 bursary.

SATs, A-Levels and GCSEs

The Secretary of State for Education also announced that these tests and examinations will not take place. In a statement to CEOs and school leaders, he said:

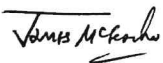
'We can confirm that we will not go ahead with assessments or exams; and that we will not be publishing performance tables for this academic year.'

'We will work with the [education] sector and Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications they need.'

Staff in our schools have worked tirelessly and often in challenging circumstances to keep schools open this week. I am most grateful for their wonderful hard work. I would also like to reassure parents and carers that we are fully committed to providing a suitably challenging programme of study for all our children and young adults during the period of school closure.

We continue to pray each day for all those around the world who have been affected by the Coronavirus.

Yours sincerely



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