

19 March 2020

Re: Coronavirus update - school closure to most students

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will no doubt be aware following the announcements last night, we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children <u>after this Friday</u> until further notice.

We were informed of this news in the same way as you were, with the same level of detail, which as you can probably imagine is leaving us all with a multitude of questions, many of which, as of yet, we have no answers for. I will, as ever, endeavour to keep you as fully informed as possible over the coming days as we process the next steps for all our young people and continue to plan for their continued education.

I feel saddened for all our Year 11 and Year 13 students for whom their exams in the summer term have now been cancelled. They should all feel incredibly proud of their successes to date, we certainly are, and we will work to ensure that their talents, hard work and determination to succeed are justly and fairly rewarded in the future. At the moment we unfortunately have no clarity as to how students will be graded in the summer, but I will write to parents again as soon as I am able to provide any updates. This is a very frustrating and difficult position for us all, our students in particular, for which I can only apologise.

School Closure

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. We are waiting for the government to publish more information today on what this means and will contact you again (today hopefully) asking for responses so that we can begin to plan the required provision.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure and therefore impacts on all our schools.

As I have stated in my previous correspondence, we will continue to provide learning for all our students throughout the period of closure through Edulink and further information about this will be provided to students and parents tomorrow.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via enquires@gphs.co.uk

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use <u>NHS 111 online</u>.

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Headteacher: Lyndsay Watterson MA NPQH





Thank you again for your continued support, and please look out for further communication from us this afternoon hopefully.

Yours faithfully

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Lyndsay Watterson Headteacher

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