

18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19

As you probably know, HM Government have ordered our closure from the close of school on Friday 20 March, until further notice. Children of 'Key workers' and certain other children who need additional support, will be able to attend, if desired by their families. We now need to make sure you have all the information you need and to reassure you that if you need to contact us, please do.

PROVISION FOR LEARNING

I have previously outlined to you our contingency plans to enable learning to continue in some form. From Monday, students will be able to access lesson materials via Show My Homework. All students who were in school on Tuesday 17th March, were taken through the computer rooms and it was checked that they knew passwords and how to access this site. Please make sure your child is doing the work set. They should follow their current timetable until further notice. If there are any problems with Show My Homework passwords please email smhw@wadhamschool.co.uk.

Children of key workers will be able to attend school and use our computer facilities here to receive that same learning. We will contact the families of those who meet the definition of needing additional support and discuss this with them.

We will also be moving to some online lessons via MS Teams. This will enable students to have contact with staff via the internet and do lessons online. We have prioritised Y11 and 6th Form learning for this, in the initial stages. Further information about this (a timetable for Y11 and 6th Form) will come out in due course. Other year groups will be notified, via Show My Homework, as and when we move to this for them too.

IDENTIFYING KEY WORKERS

Within school we hold very little information about the jobs parents have. If you have heard the announcement you will have heard how important it is that ONLY these children remain in school. We must also remember that many of our staff have children who will need their parent at home, reducing further our capacity to have large numbers of students in school.

In order for us to identify the students that are able to stay in school for child care for key workers I ask you to send a text message to 07860095237, stating your child's name, parents name and the role of the key worker ie nurse, police etc. and place of work This will enable the school office number to remain free. We will then contact all those people who have sent a text message through. It is not clear what the list of key workers includes. We will get a list on Thursday. If you think you may qualify, please text in and we will contact you to confirm that you qualify. If you believe you do qualify and you have not heard from us by 9:30 on Friday morning, please ring in to school.

GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAMINATIONS

These will not now take place. However, it was also clear in the Prime Minister's statement that grades and qualifications will be awarded. *Details are not known about how grades will be awarded.* It is *vital* that students in Y11 and Y13 continue to do work that is set by teachers, therefore. They will inevitably, in some way, be asking for our assessment of grade and will probably set up some

moderation process of work done in school. Please make sure your son or daughter stays focussed and contact us if you need help.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS

This afternoon we have tried to speak to most of these families with our plans to deliver food parcels, where this is wanted. We are awaiting details about the Government scheme for providing vouchers for supermarkets. We will pass this on when we have these details.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES WHO RECEIVE EXTERNAL AGENCY OR PFSA SUPPORT

Families in our school who are supported by external agencies or with whom we have worked very closely via our PFSA, will on a regular basis, be contacted throughout the period of closure and may be offered visits if it is appropriate.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any safeguarding concern please contact keepsafe@wadhamschool.co.uk or ring 01460 270124 from Monday.

TRANSPORT

We have asked Somerset County Council to confirm that all school bus routes will continue as usual for the children authorised to come to school, while drivers are available. We will inform you as more details become available.

CONTACTING US

If you have any major concerns which do not relate to work (please direct these to teachers via email or on SMHW or safeguarding (please use the contacts above) please email urgent@wadhamschool.co.uk We will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as we can but I know you will understand that there will be times when we are unable to respond but we will do the best we can.

We are fully aware that this is an anxious time for everyone. We all feel this. Working together we will be able to make this work and make the best of it that we can.

I must emphasise that for the good of our community, only those children of the families we have contact with, from the two groups outlined above, should come to school from Monday.

With my very best wishes and grateful thanks for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Gardner