

Messages from the School

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Coronavirus (COVID19) - 18 March

Sent: Wednesday 18 March 2020

From: networkmail@strs.org.uk

Dear Parents

Following the Prime Minister's briefing and Gavin Williamson's statement to the House of Commons, it is clear that we will not be operating as normal after 3.30pm on Friday 20 March. After this time, the School will be shut for the majority of our students. This is an extremely difficult situation which impacts us all, however, the closure of schools is necessary to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone and prevent further spread of the virus.

Setting work

For the time being, from Monday 23 March, we intend to set work for pupils in all years. Whilst this will be co-ordinated by Heads of Department, each subject teacher will set work for all their classes, lesson by lesson, and pupils will be advised to follow their usual school timetable each day at home. Pupils may ask questions and communicate with their teachers about their work using Show My Homework (SMHW). However, it is important to emphasise that pupils may not receive an instant response as some teachers will be required to be in school and some may not be well enough to reply.

We will review our approach to setting of work for students not attending school as further government guidance becomes available.

Remaining open to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils

The School will remain open to children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. Examples of these include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Educational Health Care Plans. At the moment, our intention is for them to access (via SMHW) work set by their subject teachers. I will be asking a number of staff to help supervise them in accordance with the Government's instructions.

External examinations

Mr Lynch (Head of Sixth Form) and Mr Daniell (Head of Upper School) are writing separately to Year 13 and Year 11 students' parents respectively regarding the announcement that Year 11 and Year 13 will not be able to sit their examinations as expected. I understand that this news is particularly unsettling for pupils, parents and indeed teachers. As yet, we do not have any further information regarding this situation.

I am exceptionally grateful to parents and indeed all members of the school community for their support at this challenging time. We are open tomorrow and Friday for those well enough to attend and those not self-isolating. Staff are working hard to ensure that the School is as calm and as positive as possible given the circumstances.

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Matthew Morgan,
Headmaster