



Coronavirus (COVID19) - 19 March

Dear Parents,

Following my email yesterday, you will be aware that we have been asked by the government to close to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday 23 March. It is important to understand that this provision this does not override the advice from Public Health England regarding those are ill or in self-isolation.

Provision for Key Workers

In order to plan for this provision, we need to gauge how many students we will have in school. We will try to limit the number of staff on site to those whom we require to run a limited provision. We anticipate a small group of children mostly from Key Stage 3 (as pupils in Year 10 and above are at an age where they can safely stay at home). This group will be able to come into school as normal; they will be housed in classrooms or the Learning Resources Centre and will complete their school work set by subject teachers.

I have yet to receive the finalised list of 'Key Worker' occupations from the Cabinet Office, but it is likely to include the following: NHS staff; Care home staff; all emergency services; workers supporting the production of ventilation equipment and medical supplies; retail delivery workers and other key public sector employees working to support the country's fight to tackle coronavirus. This is not an exhaustive list, but gives you an understanding of the principles from which we are working. If you are a 'Key Worker' and will require school to be open for your child, please click the link below and complete the online form. Even if you have contacted us directly, it is important that you do this so that we can ensure we process the information accurately. The deadline for this is Friday 20 March by 7pm.

<https://forms.gle/vuiqRuxFyBPqyCni7>

Vulnerable children

We will also be open for all vulnerable children. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker, those with Education, Health and Care Plans – a legal document that describes a child's special educational needs and the support they require.

Children who do not fall into either of these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.

Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

Mr Davies will be in touch directly with families in receipt of Free School meals and those who qualify for Pupil Premium Funding outlining how we will be supporting these families.

External examinations

As yet, we do not have any further information regarding this, although we are informed that there is an important meeting tomorrow.

Mr Lynch (Head of Sixth Form) and Mr Daniell (Head of Upper School) will write separately to Year 13 and Year 11 students' parents respectively when further details have emerged. I have shared pupils and parents' deep concerns regarding this situation with appropriate bodies.

Mental Health, Well-being and safeguarding

You may find the following websites useful:

[managing anxiety about the outbreak](#)

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.good-thinking.uk/>

If you have a safeguarding concern, you can email DSL@strs.org.uk This communication will only go to the safeguarding leads in the School and will be managed in accordance with our safeguarding procedures. If you are unsure whether your concern would be considered a safeguarding issue or not, please just inform us of your concern and we will be able to source the appropriate level of support.

Heads of Key Stage are also available to support pupils and may be contacted as follows:

Rhys Davies (Assistant Head i/c Key Stage 3) rmd@strs.org.uk

Peter Daniel (Head of Upper School) pmd@strs.org.uk

Matt Lynch (Head of Sixth Form) mtl@strs.org.uk

Further Advice and Support

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

Updates on COVID-19: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

It goes without saying that all staff appreciate your forbearance and fortitude in what is a national, if not international, emergency.



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Headmaster

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