

MBA/HPH  
5 January 2021

Dear Parent/carer

## **Announcement on nationwide lockdown**

I write to you to update you with our planning and precautions we are taking in the light of the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday.

Last night, the Prime Minister announced that schools will close to students for face-to-face teaching until at least the February half term.

The new measures include the immediate closure of all schools.

The new strain of the virus, that is significantly more infectious, means that we must now all play our part by once again staying at home.

From today, our school is closed to most students. Please note that this means, regardless of parents' occupation, that if it is at all possible for children to remain at home, they should be. This is so that we can, to the maximum extent possible, slow the spread of the virus and ensure that our health services do not get overwhelmed.

## **Online Provision**

- We will move to remote learning from Wednesday as previously planned. However, this will now be for an extended period of time for all students. Please see the letter of the 1st January as these arrangements stand.
- Students must electronically 'sign in' each day, via the Google Form, and complete the work set.
- There will be a mixture of provision, and we will have very high expectations of the students.
- The timetable for 'live lessons' will be shared on Monday.
- The parent / carer curriculum summary is also attached to this ParentMail. These curriculum summaries were written before we knew that we moving into lockdown; however they are nonetheless a useful summary and starting point and we will update these over the coming weeks.
- Students have a virtual assembly tomorrow morning and should access this via their year group Google Classroom. Students will then follow their usual timetable.

## **Free School Meals**

- We will continue to provide vouchers up to and including half term.
- The Front Office team has already emailed parents and carers to whom this applies; if we have missed you and / or your circumstance has changed, please make contact with us.

## Children of key workers and vulnerable students

- We are committed to establishing provision for students whose parents are at the frontline of the fight against Covid-19. If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, and you cannot keep your child safe at home and you haven't already contacted us, we will prioritise provision for your child.
- We will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers and children with certain needs.
- Please note that provision will effectively be childcare. The work that students complete will be the same work that has been set online.
- Equally, if your child has an EHCP and you are intending for your child to continue attending school and you haven't already contacted us, please do.

## Examinations

- On the prospect of disruption to GCSEs, the Prime Minister said that there would be changes, but we should be clear that there was no announcement that examinations were 'cancelled'. There will be some form of replacement.
- We will communicate with you in good time as we know more.
- It is vitally important that all students, including those in years 11, work to the very best of their capabilities.

Throughout the term of this pandemic, your patience, understanding and support have been outstanding, and again you are being tested. Whilst I believe we are entering the toughest phase of the crisis so far, we can take confidence and reassurance from how we have coped up to this point.

I will of course continue to keep you up to date with the key developments and to explain any decisions made. If the new lockdown causes your family significant difficulties, please do reach out. We really do consider ourselves to be one big family and I hope that we can look forward now that there is a viable vaccine, and that its deployment is on the horizon.

In the meantime, I sincerely hope that you and your loved ones remain in optimum health.

Very best wishes



**Heidi Philpott**  
Head of School



**Mark Barrow**  
CEO