

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to students, staff and families for their understanding. School is now closed to students except where prior arrangements have been made for children of key workers and children with certain needs. If you have not had a direct conversation to confirm these arrangements with a member of staff today then please contact the school on Monday 23rd March. We have made arrangements based on contact to date from parents. Please do not send your child in to school without prior notice as we will not be able to accommodate them. We have been informed that all school transport will continue to run until it can be adjusted according to demand.

Staffordshire County Council guidance follows national guidance:

- If children can stay safely at home, then **parents are asked to keep their children at home**
- **All children and parents in households with COVID-19 symptoms must stay at home** (and follow government guidance on [self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing](#))

Year 11 & Year 13 students

We have had the opportunity to informally celebrate the hard work and commitment of our Year 11 students and Year 13 students today. They know that we will do our absolute best to support them in securing the best possible grades for their courses. There was limited guidance provided today by the Department for Education and Ofqual but we will be in touch directly once there is more information. Universities already have substantial information about applicants and some are starting to get in touch with students. As a school, it seems that we will be asked for predicted grades and further information; the current intention is for students to receive grades by the end of July.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

We will also make sure that at an appropriate time we invite students back in for a formal celebration of their time at school. We know that they have had to deal with a lot over the last few days and students also need to know that we are still here (even if it can't be face-to-face) to offer advice and support where we can.

Supporting students and families

We will be getting in touch at least fortnightly by year group to provide updates and useful information or ideas over the coming weeks. Students should all have work to access via Show My Homework which will also signpost a number of other learning opportunities. I'm sure that it will take us all a while to adjust to changes in our lifestyles and routines. All students have been given information about the Chathealth service and we will be checking in with students receiving ongoing support.

For students receiving free school meals, we will be organising supermarket vouchers for families or providing lunch for those in school. More detail about this will follow next week. Please get in touch if there are any issues that you need to discuss or additional support required.

Lastly, we know how difficult it is for young people to distance themselves from each other. Without scaring anyone we have tried to emphasise that they do need to take the Coronavirus seriously. They are young and hopefully at lower risk but they all have friends or relatives who are elderly or with underlying health conditions. If you or a family member is seriously ill and you need us to be aware of this then please contact the school. We will do everything that we can to support you at this difficult time.

Thank you for all the kind messages of support. We can all take care of each other.

Jane Rutherford, Headteacher