

Hawkey Hall High School

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Headteacher: Mr M. Klinck



'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding'. (Ofsted)

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardians,

At the end of the day tomorrow, under the advice of the Government, we will be closing to all students except those students identified by the Government. From Monday 23rd March we will be switching to our online learning platform for all other students.

Online learning

Over the last few weeks the staff and I have been preparing resources and support materials to ensure that your child continues to receive an appropriate educational provision remotely. In addition to the online resources we will also provide links to support materials on the internet and other appropriate online learning platforms. I cannot stress enough how important it is that your child and preferably yourself has access to SMHW as this will be the only method of communication related to your child's learning. In relation to GCSE students please utilise the excellent resources available on GCSEpod and other subject areas such as Pearson maths.

During the enforced closure students can expect work for each day to be uploaded by 9.00 a.m. We appreciate at this difficult time that students may not always access the work across the five hours of the school day, similarly my staff may also have family responsibilities or illnesses of their own, however they will identify when uploading tasks when they are available to answer any questions from your child about the work. Please note that as work is likely to take longer for students to complete at home, we have modified the amount of work set for the core subjects in particular. If you do not have internet access please contact your child's Head of Year by 9.00 am on Friday 20th March.

Communication

In addition to the setting of work the school will continue to offer support and may contact you for a number of reasons. For example, if your child does not access the learning platform for several days, we may contact you to offer assistance. If you need to contact the school please use the email admin@hhhs.net and our support staff will disseminate your message to the appropriate person. We understand the difficulty of managing the challenge of distance learning particularly if you have a number of children either at Hawkey Hall or other schools. Our staff will do their best to direct learning remotely during the coming weeks but please bear with us as we implement these unprecedented new routines.

Partial opening

You will already have received a parental questionnaire referring to key workers and parent intentions to send their child into school. We are currently planning an effective provision for the small group of children who will continue to attend school. Please note that this may not fully cover all aspects of the school curriculum but we will endeavour to do our best. Once we have a clearer idea of the number of students that will be attending we will continue to support in school, we will write to these families with further information.



GCSE announcement

The Government also announced yesterday that GCSE examinations will not take place in May and June this year but has not yet provided any further information. Our understanding is that we will receive more details tomorrow. As soon as we receive any further information we will share this with you. We have been supporting our Y11's today who have obviously been affected by this news. They have shown remarkable maturity and resilience and have been a credit to the community.

Free school meals

We are still seeking information about how we provide free school meal provision to students who are entitled to it. We will communicate more information to you tomorrow regarding this matter.

Wellbeing

We realise the extraordinary circumstances caused by COVID-19 virus may make some of our students anxious or concerned. We will provide materials or potential sources of advice on the school website on the new Wellbeing tab from next week. Please continue to follow the Government advice during the days and weeks ahead and continue to find ways for your son/daughter to find ways to keep in touch with friends and family even if they are required to self-isolate, for example through Whatsapp or other platforms. We will certainly be using these functions as staff to support each other.

As you are aware the current situation is changing on a daily basis and we are trying as hard as possible to react and plan effectively for different eventualities. I can only assure you that my staff and I are completely committed to providing the best education possible for your children in these very trying circumstances. I am sure that all parts of our school community will continue to work together and support each other in managing this challenging situation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MKlinck', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Klinck
Headteacher