

March 19th 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

In light of the Government's decision to close all schools from Monday, and current staffing levels I have taken the decision to ask **Years 8 and 10 to come into school** on Friday March 20th and ask **Yrs 7 and 9 to remain at home**. This arrangement gives us the best opportunity to prepare all of our students for the weeks ahead when they will be expected to continue their learning at home.

Following the Government announcement yesterday, I have the following information for you:

Public Examinations

At the moment, we do not have information from the examination boards about what schools need to do now that this year's examinations have been cancelled. As soon as we receive any information in this regard, we will contact year 11 and 13 students and parents and we will also make the updated information available on the school website.

Children of Key Workers

In the context of a secondary school, the majority of children are likely to be suitably competent to remain at home unsupervised. The Cabinet Office is expected to define groups of Key Workers who may wish to make use of the skeleton provision that will be put in place in school, depending on the ages of your children. Please use this link <https://tinyurl.com/ws4wdop> if you are a Key Worker to you can advise us of any school provision that you need in order to fulfil your essential roles during this time.

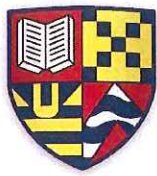
Please note that the Government expects all other children to be at home during this period in order to manage the spread of the virus.

Children deemed vulnerable and those with EHCPs

Our Pastoral team will be contacting families today to confirm arrangements during school closure.

All students

We are in the process of finalising the arrangements for your children to continue with their school work while we are closed from Monday. Our School Portal is currently being prepared and we will advise you of the full details once we are ready to launch. Please be aware this is a new way of working for us and we will be on a journey with you over the coming weeks to ensure that your child has sufficient work and support over the time we are closed. Full details will be issued to you next week setting out how we will be supporting learning for all students during the weeks ahead.



Free school meals

It is important during a virus epidemic that students eat healthily. If you are not entitled to free school meals and are concerned about providing your child with a meal during the period of closure, we may be able to assist you in accessing food banks or similar support services: please do make us aware if this is proving difficult as we will always try to support where we can.

This information relates to **free school meal children only**:

Some families may be able to provide their child with a lunch whilst the school is closed, however, until such time as we are no longer allowed to provide this, your child will be able to collect a free school meal from the school site between 12.15 and 1pm every day. Please note that, if there is a total lockdown ordered by the Government, we will review how we will ensure you are still provided with a meal for your child.

To assist with catering, use this link <https://tinyurl.com/qmoo415> to confirm whether your child will be collecting a meal. If you are entitled to a free school meal and your child is unable to access a free school meal on site during the week please can you email fsm@colmers.school so we can arrange an alternative.

Student well-being

We are putting a lot of thought into how we will support our students' well being during school closure, mindful of the potential impact of self-isolation on mental well-being. We will keep you updated on resources and support available for young people who are struggling and our Early Help and Safeguarding Team will be keeping in touch with students who have been accessing support in school.

I hope that this information is helpful and I wish you and your families well during what is a very worrying time for all.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Leaman

Headteacher