



Kirkby High School

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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your families are safe and well. As you will be aware, Coronavirus is a rapidly changing situation and we have been working with the Department for Education, Public Health England, The Rowan Learning Trust and Knowsley Council since the government announcement yesterday (18.03.2020). As per the Prime Minister's announcement, we have been directed to close the school for most children. We are prepared and ready to respond to this challenge.

Today I am writing to inform you that school will close on Friday 20th March 2020 at 3pm and remain closed until further notice. Parents should check the school website for updates which will be posted regularly.

Students will be provided with work through Classcharts and letters reminding students and parents of log in details are being sent out today. The work will be set electronically on Classcharts from Monday 23rd March and will be updated on a daily basis.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open from Monday 23rd March for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services – the list can be found on our website). We will also be open for students with an EHCP or a social worker and the Inclusion team will contact relevant families separately. **I must stress, however, that students who are medically vulnerable will not be allowed in school.** This includes students who are diabetic or asthmatic and a full list of conditions is on our website.

I must stress that as parents/carers, you must not send your child to school unless this has been agreed with us because you fall into one of the above categories. This is the direction from the government.

We continue to encourage you and your children to follow Public Health England advice on keeping yourselves safe. Updated information can be found here :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Year 11 Exams

I have no doubt that the announcement regarding exams has left students and families stressed and bewildered. I am in the same situation with one of my sons and I worry about the impact that this is having on him. It is a difficult time and there are many questions unanswered. I assure you that I will keep you informed as soon as we know any details about how the government plans to progress with this but please be mindful that we are only finding out decisions and plans as they are shared on the news. We are not informed of ahead of the general public.

Next Steps for Year 11

At Kirkby High School, we firmly believe that young people can find a joy in learning. We know that despite the uncertainty around exams, students need to continue to learn. The government has guaranteed that students will achieve their qualifications and that they will not be prevented from taking the next step in their education. Because of this, we are asking that you support us in encouraging your child to stay focused on their school work. We will set work via Classcharts that will focus on the GCSE course in each



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subject. Year 11 learning needs to continue to ensure that they are not disadvantaged and they need to keep their brain and their thinking skills active in order to be prepared for whatever is to come. A list of the exam boards that students are following is on our website. It is important that students are still aware of the specifics of their course and so they should refer to this.

Next Steps for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10

The same message applies to all other year groups. Students will find it very difficult to resume learning when school is fully functioning if they lose all focus now. Please support your children to complete the work that is set daily on Classcharts. Staff are working hard to ensure that the work set is a continuation of the curriculum as planned for this academic year. If students do not engage in this learning, they will have big gaps in their knowledge when they return to school.

Communication

I understand that parents/carers may feel overwhelmed with the amount of information that is being sent out but I ask that you read each letter and text carefully as communication is only sent if it is of very high importance. Please be aware that the only way we can send a long message is to send it in multiple texts. The technology does not allow us to do it in any other way. Each text is numbered e.g. 1/1 or 1/2 etc to try to ease confusion. When asked to reply, it is helpful if you can text your response and this is regularly monitored by a member of the senior leadership team.

Social Media

As I mentioned in an earlier letter, it is important that you access information regarding this ever-changing situation from our website or letters and texts that we send directly out. Emotions are high and that is understandable but it also means that opinions and comments on social media platforms are often unhelpful and inaccurate. This can lead to further frustration and confusion.

Free School Meals

Knowsley Council has provided Kirkby High School with a guarantee that students who are eligible for free school meals will have their lunches provided for them. Further information about this will be communicated to these families in due course by the council.

Everything in this letter is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

I am sure that all parts of our school community, including students, staff, parents and governors will continue to work together and support each other in managing this challenging and unprecedented situation. If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please do not hesitate to do so by telephone before the end of the school day on Friday or by email thereafter admin@kirkbyhighschool.net.

Thank you again for your continued support; it is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Mrs R Conefrey
Headteacher