

20th March 2020

Dear parent / carer,

As I am sure you are aware, the government have announced that all schools should close today to try and contain the corona virus. This has been communicated to students via assemblies.

The government have also announced that we should be open to children of keyworkers. **This does not mean attendance of these students is compulsory. They have asked us to stay open for children who absolutely need to attend.** Please see the following link for more detail;

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?fbclid=IwAR2GTZ7IMEI-3GA-5YpoB236dWOntg4AFsbjVjanLo_mD_oJ2iiouo8yOWk

If you intend for your child to attend school please complete the linked document found [here](#) by 7.00 am on Monday morning. We will expect advanced notice through the completion of this form in order for your child to attend. We will only be allowing students to attend where both parents are key workers, unless we are told otherwise by the government, or you are facing exceptional circumstances. This does not apply to lone parent families. **The main point is that any child that can be safely cared for at home should be to reduce the number of people in circulation.**

We are also putting in place provision for children who might be considered more vulnerable. If you feel your child falls into this category please contact either Mrs Adrio, Mrs Butterworth or Mrs Southall directly at;

- adrio@wardleacademy.co.uk
- butterworthe@wardleacademy.co.uk
- southalf@wardleacademy.co.uk

Our opening hours will be normal school hours and food will be available at break and lunchtime. Students should wherever possible bring bottled drinks (e.g. water), as school water fountains have been turned off to reduce the risk of infection being passed.

Specialist teaching and pastoral staff will be available (in reduced numbers), and students are expected to apply themselves in the same way as they would on any other school day. There may be adjustments to the curriculum. Full uniform is expected.

The government has also discussed the role of schools in providing food to students who are entitled to free school meals. We will update you when we have more detail about the practicalities of this. We would never want to see any young person go without as a result of a school closure. If it is the case that any student who would normally be entitled to a free school meal is without on Monday they should come to us at lunchtime and we will provide a meal for them.

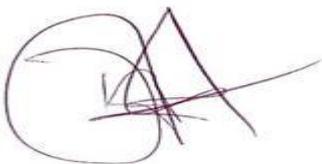
In amongst everything that has been going on please spare a thought for looking after our Year 11. Yesterday it was confirmed they will not be taking exams this summer. We are told clarity on how they will be awarded the exam grades they deserve will be published today. They have dealt with this bombshell with great maturity. Today is expected to be their last day in school. Credit must also go to all the students at Wardle Academy. Despite the uncertain circumstances we have had to deal with, on the whole their attitude and conduct has been outstanding.

Finally, it is worth remembering we are genuinely in the midst of a national, and international emergency. There will be many questions still to be answered. They need to be answered. However, as well as there being many 'known unknowns' out there, there are also many 'unknown unknowns'. What I do know is that we will be doing our bit to help keep the country going. The collective professionalism and hard work of staff here has been exceptional and we will continue to work in partnership with everyone to do our utmost to support our young people, the community of Wardle Academy and wider national priorities.

We will update you in due course as soon as more information is available.

As always, thanks again for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Hesketh
Headteacher