



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/SXG

1 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Closure Update

As the school has now been closed for almost two weeks due to the Coronavirus pandemic, I wanted to take this opportunity to keep in touch with you and provide an update on school provision. Over the last week I have spoken to many staff, governors and parents and we all share the worry and anxiety being felt, especially for our family, friends and loved ones, at this difficult time.

I would like to personally thank you for the arrangements you have made to enable your child, wherever possible, to stay at home safely at this time. The government has issued a clear directive that every child who can be safely cared for at home must be. They have reiterated that if there is a parent working from home, the child must be kept at home to minimise the risk to the child, family and wider school community.

I would be grateful if you can keep up to date with the Public Health England guidance on Coronavirus via the website below, which is being updated regularly:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The staff at William Farr have been working incredibly hard to ensure that your child can continue their education remotely by setting meaningful and varied work and providing feedback via the VLE. I know there have been some technical issues, which have restricted access to the VLE on a few days. This was caused by extra use on a national scale. We have been working with Firefly, our VLE provider, to increase capacity to rectify this and apologise for any concern this may have caused you or your child.

I am aware that some students have experienced difficulties in keeping on top of the work set and appreciate the support you are giving them to manage their workload and spread the tasks set over a period of time.

It is clear that as the school closure continues, we need to ensure students have a manageable workload and also have the opportunity for enrichment activities that have an educational or wellbeing benefit. This could include exercise or time spent outside of the house. We are, therefore, going to issue all students in Years 7 to 11 with a new timetable for the summer term. This will reduce the number of tasks students will be set each week to enable them to keep up with the work set and build in time for other enrichment activities. Education in its broadest sense is developing the whole child and any activities you may wish to do with your child are equally valued. Ideas for enrichment activities will be issued with the timetable. Additional consolidation tasks will also be included in the work set for those who wish to use their enrichment time for further study.

The new timetables will be issued this week via the VLE to allow students time to prepare for this change. Teaching staff will set work in line with this new timetable after Easter. We recommend that students follow their timetable to give themselves a structure and routine during the closure, however we understand that they may choose to work at different times of the day so they can pursue enrichment activities, as well as academic study.

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Students in Year 10 and Year 12 are in the middle of examination courses and, as such, it is essential that they complete the tasks set by their teachers and submit the work requested for assessment and feedback. Students from these year groups who are not completing the work set are putting themselves at a disadvantage. Although work will not be set over the Easter break, it does provide students with an opportunity to catch up on any tasks not completed this term. After Easter we will contact parents if we have any concerns over work not being completed.

For children who have SEN, we appreciate there are more challenges to completing work. They will not necessarily be able to complete work by the deadline set. The school understands this and supports a more flexible approach.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, you should have received a separate letter this week outlining provision. If this has not been received, please contact the school via our email address: (wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk).

As we approach the Easter break, this is not the end of term which I would have wished for, nor anticipated. What is very important is that we all remain healthy, stay safe and look after each other. You are all part of a special William Farr community and our thoughts and prayers are with you every day.

I look forward to life at William Farr returning to some degree of normality in the not too distant future. In the meantime, if you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch via our email address (wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk). I will keep in touch with you next term with any further updates.

I wish you the hope and beauty of springtime and the promise of brighter days.

All good wishes to you and your family over Easter.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher