



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/SXG

23 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Closure Update

I hope you and your family had a restful Easter break despite the challenging times we face.

As we enter the third week of school closure and the start of the summer term, the message from the government on 19 April was that schools will continue to be closed until 5 key tests are met:

- The NHS can continue to provide critical care and specialist treatment across the UK.
- The daily death rates from coronavirus fall.
- Reliable data shows that the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels.
- There is adequate testing capacity and PPE to meet current and future demand.
- There is confidence that any changes will not risk a second peak of infections.

This means that our current school closure arrangements will continue until such time as the government decides to introduce a full/phased opening of schools.

I would like to thank you for the continued arrangements you have made to enable your child, wherever possible, to stay at home safely at this time. The government's persistent message is 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.

The school did remain open over the Easter break for a small number of vulnerable children and those whose parents are critical workers and could not stay at home. I am extremely grateful for the teachers and support staff who kindly volunteered to provide childcare for these few students over the Easter break. This shows the commitment of William Farr staff in supporting this national cause. I am also heartened by the stories I am hearing of William Farr students raising money for the NHS and supporting the local community. This shows that students continue to live our core values of respect, compassion and responsibility, which underpin the vision of the school.

The government is providing regular up-to-date information on coronavirus from the Public Health England guidance via the website below:

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

I would like to thank you for all the support you are giving your child with their home learning. The school continues to work hard to ensure that your child can continue their education remotely by setting meaningful work and providing feedback via the VLE. All students in Years 7-10 will have been issued with a new timetable to allow for a more manageable workload and also have the opportunity for enrichment activities that have an educational or wellbeing benefit. 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.



Year 11 and 13 students will now be focusing on work to prepare them for their next steps in either education, employment or training. Parents of these students will have received a separate letter from Mr Ellis (Deputy Headteacher) explaining this.

We are amending our reporting schedule for this half term. Staff are now writing reports for Year 10 students based on their progress in their GCSE courses prior to the school closure. We will notify parents of Year 10 students when these reports are ready. Year 8 students will be issued with a data report later this week based on data collected just prior to the school closure.

I understand the significant family pressures placed upon you at this time to manage work, home life and home learning. We are continually looking at ways we can support the wellbeing of families and will be providing a parent support pack shortly. In the meantime, please access information included on the VLE, under the Care and Guidance/Student Welfare section. This signposts support for students on maintaining positive mental wellbeing; including child-friendly information on the coronavirus and help in managing stress and anxiety. The school will continue to make regular checks on the welfare of students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and those with a social worker.

In recent weeks, the school has been updating its Safeguarding Policy in the light of the current situation and a policy annex will be available shortly in the Governing Body section of the school website.

If you or your family is suffering from financial hardship at this time and would like any additional support to access food and care parcels, please contact Mrs Bates (Assistant Headteacher) in confidence, via email (h.bates@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk). I have also been informed by Reverend Adam Watson (Vicar of Welton, Dunholme and Scothern) that the Welton Community Larder has opened, working from St Mary's Church in Welton each Thursday afternoon between 1.30 and 3.00pm. They are providing an emergency three-day food parcel to people with a food bank voucher. Vouchers can be obtained through organisations such as the Benefits Office, Citizens Advice and CAP (Christians Against Poverty), and also locally through Church leaders and Welton Parish Council Offices. If you know of anybody who would benefit from this service, please pass on the details.

Finally, can I reiterate again my thanks to you in all that you are doing to support your child's education and wellbeing. If you have any questions or need further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch via our email address (wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk).

I will, of course, keep you updated on any further developments as and when they occur.

May peace and good health remain with you.

All good wishes to you and your family.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher

