



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/SXG

14 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Closure Update

I hope you and your family are well, despite the challenging times we continue to face.

The school will continue to be closed to all students, except those who are vulnerable and those whose parents are critical workers and are eligible to attend. The school will remain open for these students during the half term holiday (Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May inclusive). I am extremely grateful to staff who have again volunteered to come in during half term and provide childcare. The school continues to make regular contact with our vulnerable students to ensure their wellbeing.

The Government has announced that its ambition is for secondary pupils facing exams next year to get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays, providing the key scientific and medical evidence shows that it is safe to do so. They have proposed that from June, Year 10 and 12 students receive some face-to-face support to supplement their remote education, providing their 5 key tests to ease lockdown have been met. They have reiterated that this is not a return to full timetable or students back in school full time. It will be contact to support students with their remote learning. I am currently awaiting clarification from the Local Authority, Department for Education and unions as to how this could potentially work in practice and what 'face-to-face support' could entail. My overwhelming priority must be to ensure that it is safe for any students and staff to return to school on a partial basis. I will contact parents of Year 10 and 12 students when I have further information.

I would like to thank you all for the support you continue to give your child with their home learning. It will always be difficult for students to be home-schooled, but our current approach via the VLE ensures fair access to materials for all students. It gives a measure of consistency across departments and a single point of access for students, including those with limited IT facilities. Staff are monitoring their tasks and responding to comments. They have been very pleased with the quality of work completed. Staff will continue to set work for Years 7-10 and Year 12 and provide feedback via the VLE. Please encourage your child to use this facility and if they have any concerns, raise it via the VLE comments section. It would also be helpful if they could check their emails periodically for any correspondence from school.

From the Government's announcement, it appears that students in Years 7-9 unfortunately may not be returning to school until September and so the on-line learning is very important. Teachers will continue to set tasks and provide feedback in a timely manner via the VLE. However with the possibility of Years 10 and 12 partially returning to school sometime in June, feedback may be slightly delayed if teachers are in school with other students.

With two young children of my own, I understand the pressures you are under in balancing home life, work and home learning, as well as trying to keep a sense of perspective and remaining upbeat. Your welfare and that of your child is imperative. If you have not had a chance to look at the parent support pack on the front page of the website and resources on the VLE, under the Care and Guidance/Student Welfare section, I highly recommend them to you.



So far we have supported six families with food and care parcels. Our offer to assist families suffering from financial hardship continues. If you 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).

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 am sorry I cannot give you any further information on when the school could re-open, but please be assured that we are working hard and continually reviewing practices to provide the best education we can at this very difficult time.

Have pride in how far we have come and faith in the outlook for tomorrow.

All good wishes to you and your family.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher