

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following my brief communication to you yesterday I am writing to provide further details of our plans for the coming weeks and how we will ensure all students maintain their learning during this period. We will continue to provide email updates as and when they are available and can I remind parents that all communications will also be placed on the coronavirus section of the website (under the parents and carers tab).

Virtual Learning

We are in a fortunate position that we have an embedded laptop and VLE (Firefly) system, which means we are well prepared to allow students to continue to access teaching and learning during the period of closure. All lessons will take place 'virtually' through Firefly.

All students will be expected to follow their normal timetable and lesson timings each day, with the exception of PE and Tutor Time (see further information below). Staff will be setting the activity for each lesson through the 'tasks' section on Firefly and students should spend the normal 1hr and 15 minutes completing those activities. Staff will also be using Microsoft 'Teams' to conduct some live video conferencing for parts or whole lessons. Students will be informed of this in the 'task description' on Firefly for that lesson.

Staff will make clear what work is to be submitted for either checking completion or feedback.

Mr Hoyle will be sending information for parents/carers on how you can also access Firefly to see the work your child has been set.

Students of key workers who continue to attend school

We will run the normal school day timings for the children of key workers (for whom the school remains open) and the most vulnerable students. They will complete the same activities and on-line learning as their peers will be doing at home but will be supervised by school staff. Further details will be sent to these parents directly tomorrow.

Safeguarding and vulnerable students

We have made provision to ensure that through the Safeguarding and Student Progress team we maintain particularly close contact with students and parents who may need particular support at this time. As per our usual school safeguarding procedure if at any point a parent, teacher or student is concerned about the welfare of one of our young people we would ask you to contact a member of the School Safeguarding Team on 01756 707600 (this number will remain in operation during normal school hours). Further information regarding keeping children safe and what to do if you have a concern outside school contact time is available at:

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/>

PE and Gathering time

The PE team will be putting onto Firefly some daily activities that students can do to keep healthy that can be done either indoors or outside. We will also put some suggested activities for tutor time (10.10-10.30). This will include a suggested reading list that students can work through both in that time and also at other points in the day if they desire.



Examinations

I realise the announcement made by the government yesterday has caused significant amounts of distress and anxiety to our students, who have been working extremely hard throughout their studies and revision. We have received no additional information at the moment but understand there is to be an announcement tomorrow giving further information about how qualifications will be awarded. I will communicate any further information as soon as possible. At the moment we are continuing to teach Year 11 and 13 to ensure they have completed all the specification content so they are not disadvantaged in any further studies.

Free School Meals

Ms Busfield, Business Manager, will communicate directly with parents of students who are eligible for free school meals to outline how we will ensure this provision is met during the closure period.

Communications

We will keep parents and students regularly updated throughout the closure period through the website, e-mail and other media. We will continue to use our usual communication channels where possible but would ask for extra understanding around response times as there may be periods where certain staff are not able to respond as they normally would due to illness. If you are unsure who to direct your enquiry to then please email sghs@sghs.org.uk or telephone 01756 707600.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the students and school during this unprecedented time.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M Turner
Head of Academy