

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19 Update

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all schools will close their doors to the overwhelming majority of students by the end of the day on Friday. We fully understand why this is necessary but also understand how unsettling and challenging this will be for all families. We also learnt that our Year 11 and 13 students will not now sit their terminal examinations in May/June. The Secretary of State has stated this morning that the methodology for awarding grades will be revealed tomorrow. We are hugely disappointed for the young people who have worked so hard to prepare to this point. However, I would ask students to do their best not to worry about Sixth Form, college or university places at this stage. I have spoken to all students present in Years 11 and 13 this morning to reassure them. It is imperative that they continue to complete all work set whilst we wait to find out how they will be accredited.

Sadly, **from 3.00pm on Friday 20th March**, the school will be closed to students until further notice. All Easter revision sessions have been cancelled. The **only** exception is for children of key workers, students with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and children categorised as vulnerable or at risk. Key workers have been defined as:

- Medical, nursing and paramedic / ambulance staff
- Armed forces, Fire Officers, Police Officers and prison staff
- Workers in Adult Social Care, Social Workers and Teachers
- Health Care Assistants and Administrators (in GP practices / Clinics)
- Childminders (Certificate of Registration will be required as evidence)
- Supermarket delivery drivers

If you are a key worker and a parent with no other form of childcare during the school closure, **please complete this google form [link](#) by 12.00pm on Friday 20th March or call the school reception, 01895 234342** if you wish your child to be in school so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Please note that **workplace IDs may be required** to be produced as evidence; if this is the case then it is preferable that these are emailed as an attachment (a photo will suffice) or if you wish to come in person to school to present this to us. Please, of course, do not come to the school in person if you have any symptoms of the virus.

In addition, we are contacting the parents/carers/social workers of all our vulnerable/at risk children and those with EHCPs, to ascertain whether they would benefit from being in school as opposed to studying at home. Individual families will have been contacted by our Student Services team today.

I should clarify that our understanding of Government advice is that key workers are not obliged to send their children into school. It is a service being made available for those that do not have alternative provision in place or whose children are perhaps not of an age where they can be left alone during the day.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

Access to school for students with EHCPs, vulnerable students and children of key workers will be put in place for the first 2 weeks of the closure in the first instance. We will review provision again at that point, depending on the national position at the time and the needs of parents.

We are still awaiting guidance from the Local Authority as to how we can support families whose children are in receipt of free school meals. We will write separately to those families with further details.

From Monday, we will be asking students to complete work as per their timetable from home on a daily basis. The staff at Vyners have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes to ensure that a high standard of work will be set for all students to support effective remote learning. This will be done via the Google classrooms platform but students may also be required to access other electronic resources such as Kerboodle, MyMaths or Seneca Learning. Please note that homework is suspended at this time; so long as children complete the on-line learning activities each day, they should be able to maintain their progress. Our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Foster will write to you about access to remote learning and expectations of students, staff and parents tomorrow.

We do not know at present how long school closures will last and we will be reviewing our plans during the Easter holidays to make a decision as to how we will continue to support learning when the new term begins on the 20th April. We will keep you informed as to next steps once we receive further guidance from the government. We know how difficult it is for families in times of such uncertainty and anxiety and will endeavour to keep you as informed as possible during this time. My thanks again to all our wonderful staff, parents, carers and of course the children for their support and resilience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Mullings', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher