

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School Closure due to Coronavirus Update 1

Arrangements for Year 11 and Year 13

Today we have managed to celebrate with both Year groups. Fond farewells were given and tears shed. Above all else, the message to both year groups is that we are terribly proud of them – today and always.

Unfortunately, we have had no further information about how this year's qualifications are to be awarded. As soon as anything is received I will write to parents.

I have, however, managed to re-arrange the Year 11 Prom, which is (provisionally) re-scheduled for Friday 11th September. Given the exceptional circumstances in which this year group have had to end Year 11, I have made the unprecedented decision that this year's Prom, will be open to everyone to attend. Tickets will go on sale next week, via Parent Pay and parents/carers will be able to pay for the tickets incrementally.

Arrangements for Home Learning

I have met with students in Years 7 – 10 and shared with them the following:

- Students are not expected to work for 25 hours a week, whilst they are remote learning, this is simply unrealistic and certainly not good for their mental health
- No work will be set for students on what would have been their Easter holidays
- Work will be uploaded on Show My Homework each Wednesday (I trust that students have been sent home with enough work and resources to keep them occupied until then)
- School will not be providing video conferencing or Skype lessons

Your Child's Well-Being

I know from speaking with many of our students they are feeling scared and worried about what's going to happen. To help them we will also put a link on our website by the end of Tuesday to some resources and websites that they may find useful.

Collection of Medicine, Work and Items Left in Lockers

All students were asked to ensure their personal items went home with them, however, if your child has forgotten their medicine, work or has left something in their locker they will be able to collect at the following times.

Monday 23rd March: 1.30 – 3.00 p.m.

Tuesday 24th March and Wednesday 25th March: 10.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

Provision for Key Workers

Following the release late last night of essential key workers and the opening of the school next week for the children of key workers and 'vulnerable' pupils, the following information needs to be shared with you.

Please be aware that school is available to families of key workers if there is no safe alternatives for the family to use. School should be seen as a last resort. This is to support the containment of the coronavirus.

The government's list of key workers is included here:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services.

A more detailed breakdown of this list can be accessed [here](#).

Thank you to parents who have completed the form that was circulated yesterday. This has enabled us to put in place provision which will begin on Monday 23rd March.

From Monday 23rd March

In relation to students being in school, please be aware of the following:

- School will operate normal hours/times. (This may change at a later date, if staffing levels mean sustaining this becomes impossible)
- Students will be following a different curriculum as given staffing levels, we are not able to operate a traditional school day. The offer will be subject to change.
- Students will need to bring school equipment; however, they do not need to attend in school uniform. All that we ask is that they wear something that they can take part in physical activity in and that clothes are changed daily to maintain hygiene standards.
- Students will need to report to the main hall at 8.30 a.m. where registration will take place.
- The normal school bus service will be running.
- Food will only be available for students at lunchtime, however, they can make use of the vending machine in the sixth form block at break time.

The school is aware that many key workers have made alternative arrangements to have their children looked after away from school, or to stay at home. There is no requirement for parents/carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to.

Vulnerable Children

The school will also be open for vulnerable children, and staff in school have contacted the families of all children who we believe fall into this category. If, however, you have not been contacted and believe that your family's situation falls into this category please contact your child's House Achievement Leader.

School Meals:

Arrangements are in place for Free School Meals (FSM) and hot/cold meals to be made available each day the school is open. For pupils who are entitled to FSMs and who are in school, these will be served as they currently are.

For all other families who are entitled to a Free School Meal, I will contact early next week with an update in relation to a voucher system.

Updates

Do please keep checking on the school's website and Twitter for update information.

Going forward, from next week, we may not need to communicate on a daily basis. However, do rest assured that we will update all families with key information and details as things develop.

Can I also take this opportunity to personally thank parents and carers for the support and compassion they have shown towards the staff and I during this time. Your support make being part of Team Sherburn an absolute privilege – may you all stay safe and well,

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher