



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Thursday 19th March 2020

General School Closure: Coronavirus

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from our last update, We are writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to provide a service for the children of parents who are key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs.

We are awaiting the government's clarification of who is included in this category but we are writing to you now to ask that you inform Deputy Head Teacher Robert Nicoll on ronicoll@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk or by telephoning 01332 840645 as soon as possible, and no later than Friday 20th March, if you think your child falls into one of these categories and you would like them to attend school from Monday. We will be in touch again once we are sure who this does apply to.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

When the government allows schools to re-open we will let you know by writing to you using email and SMS in the usual way.

The government has announced that **exams** due to be held in May and June will be cancelled, including GCSEs and A-levels, but the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual have said it will announce plans tomorrow to ensure pupils get the qualifications they need. As soon as we know the detail of these plans we will write to you again.

Children entitled to **free school meals** will get support from a national voucher system, which will be available as soon as possible. In the meantime, you can order vouchers directly from supermarkets to be compensated by the DfE later.

We called Year 11 and Year 13 together this morning to explain the current situation and to reassure them. Whatever solution the government provides regarding award of GCSE and A Level grades, we will work hard to ensure that none of our students is disadvantaged. We feel strongly that Year 11 and 13 should be given the opportunity for a proper send off and so we will be making arrangements for them to have a goodbye assembly tomorrow afternoon. We will also try to re-schedule the Sixth Form Leavers' Ball after the summer and to provide a whole Year 11 celebration in the autumn to include students who are currently off school.

It is important that students who are self-isolating do not come into school tomorrow and we appreciate your support in this.

During the school closure the Show My Homework system will be used to maintain remote teaching for all. Work will be set regularly and priority will be given to students in exam classes. It will be necessary to review this once we know what the government plans to do about awarding grades.

Thank you for your continued support. We will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Nicoll,
Deputy Head Teacher

James McNamara
Head Teacher