



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
James McNamara BA(Hons); NPQH

Wirksworth Road, Duffield, Belper: DE56 4GS
Tel: (01332) 840645 Fax: (01332) 841871
Web: www.ecclesbourne.org.uk
email: info@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk



Friday 20th March 2020

General School Closure: Coronavirus

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to thank all our students, parents, carers and staff for their support through the last few weeks. Our school motto is "Integrity. Tenacity. Service." Never has it been so abundantly in evidence than it has this week in the way that everyone associated with the school has carried themselves. We are so proud of our students and staff.

We now begin an uncertain time and we do not know when the school will fully re-open. However, we will be keeping regularly in contact with students and with parents and carers until we do. In the meantime, our teachers will be communicating with their classes via Show My Homework and setting and collecting work. It will help students to have a routine in the coming weeks and we advise parents to help them to establish a regular pattern of work, exercise and relaxation. If you have any questions or need to contact school please don't hesitate to do so using the usual points of contact. The best people to contact will be the Lower School, Upper School and Sixth Form Office pastoral teams in the first instance.

From Monday, we will provide a service for the children of parents who are key workers and children with certain specified needs. Please follow the link for the full list of key worker professions which was published this morning.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Thank you to those parents who have informed Mr Nicoll (rnicol@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk 01332 840645) that their child falls into one of these categories so we know who to expect in school from Monday. Mr Nicoll is writing separately to these parents to explain the practical arrangements for next week.

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

The government have today set out the approach they will take to the award of grades at GCSE and A Level. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in. The aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years.

Follow the link for the full statement.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced?utm_source=96f31727-1fb9-408b-a7fa-d91d4ceaeb6b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

In the light of the general school closure and the need to prioritise provision for the children of key workers, the scheduled Outward Bound trip to Scotland in April and the Danish exchange in May will not now take place. We have contacted the travel companies and will continue to liaise with them and with parents and carers to arrange refunds. We will continue to keep parents and carers informed as this situation develops.

Parents and carers are reminded that 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.

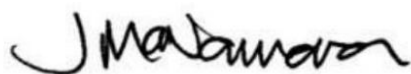
Thank you again for your continued support.

With our sincere best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Robert Nicoll in black ink.

Robert Nicoll,

Deputy Head Teacher

Handwritten signature of James McNamara in black ink.

James McNamara

Head Teacher