

To the parents of pupils in Years 3 to 8

5th January 2020

Dear Parents,

I know that you will have heard the news regarding a lockdown in England. This means that pupils in Years 3 to 8 are not able to come into school until further notice (for Key Worker children, please see below). I understand how upsetting and challenging this is for our pupils and for you and I wish we were not in this situation. However, we must now work quickly to implement the new government guidance and to do all that we can to provide our children with the best possible education and care that we can provide whilst they are at home. We have shown that we can do this, and we have the successes of last Summer term to help guide us during the coming weeks.

You will, I am sure, understand that meetings and discussions are being held today amongst staff and that it will take a few days for all of the procedures and information to be published for pupils and parents. However, I can at this point give you the following information:-

- With regard to boarders, Mrs Wells is in direct contact with all of our families.
- Further information will be sent to parents as soon as possible with regard to pupils' exercise books, textbooks and any other resources.
- We will work according to the existing lesson timetable (including Saturday morning for Years 7 and 8) but there may be changes made to the timetable. If there are changes, these will take a little time to decide upon and to communicate.
- There will be an extended Form Period at the start of the day on Wednesday so that Form Tutors can share information with their tutees and ensure that all pupils are set up to be taught online. Pupils who are joining the school in January will be sent their log-in and password details, and Form Tutors will be contacting them directly today. If there are existing pupils who have problems with logging into our digital platforms, or any other queries, they (or their parents) should contact their Form Tutor in the first instance.
- If you fall within the definition of 'Key Workers' as set out by the Government and if, because of your work commitments, you require your child(ren) to be in school, please complete the questionnaire (link below) **by 5.00pm today**. If you are unable to meet this timescale, please do it as soon as possible thereafter. We will send out information later this evening to all parents who have responded via the form. Please ensure that you provide on the form all of the information requested. Please note that we would like parents of pupils in Years 7&8 to complete the form again as we have made some adjustments to the provision since our letter to parents yesterday: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3KEwsxwc4EedI4tJ41RQVzkBpLVEpNRMIWWG9QG0dL9UQUcxRzi3TENKTVIBN042M09TVkZGNFEzQi4u>
Low numbers will help to keep health risks to a minimum for both staff and pupils involved in this 'Key Worker' provision, so parents should only ask for this support if they have no other practical solution.
- For pupils in Years 7 and 8, the Lateral Flow Testing for pupils process is likely to be paused, so please do not expect communication regarding this for the time being

More information will be provided to parents (and to pupils) as soon as we can. I am very grateful for your understanding and support as we work to switch the whole school to full remote learning as quickly and as efficiently as we can. I am sure that some of you will have questions and issues you would like to raise, and, if these are not addressed by our ongoing communication, please do contact your child's Form Tutor or another relevant member of staff.

Despite the challenges of this situation for pupils, parents, staff and the school as a whole, I am a great optimist and I am sure that our fantastic community spirit will see parents, pupils and staff working together in partnership to ensure that our children continue to receive the best education and care that we can possibly give to them. During lockdown last summer, we saw pupils, staff and parents achieve amazing things, and there were aspects of learning and personal development which progressed faster for some pupils than would have been the case during normal school. We witnessed increased levels of independence, maturity and creativity, and we saw pupils engaging online with their teachers, and with their subjects, in a deeper way, showing greater levels of curiosity and asking more questions. With the fillip of a vaccination programme getting into full swing, we can see this as a time to get the most out of remote learning, whilst looking forward to when we will all be back in school.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Edwards', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Edwards
Headmaster