



PARK HIGH SCHOOL

19th March 2020

Dear Parents,

You will know the government has announced significant measures to help manage the spread of Coronavirus Covid-19 which as of 5.15 on the 18th March included closing schools for the vast majority of students from the end of the school day on Friday 20th March.

The school will attempt to put on a form of educational provision from Monday for the following students:

1. Children of Key Workers (for example, Medical, nursing and paramedics/ambulance staff. Workers in adult social care, social workers, Health Care Assistants and Administrators (in GP practices/Clinics) Childminders (Certificate of Registration) Nursery Staff (PVI) Fire and Police; Delivery Drivers who cannot make other childcare arrangements) to come to school for as long as we possibly can. The local authority advice is that colleagues in these professions should show work identification and where possible confirm their eligibility for this. Please indicate as soon as possible, and certainly by 10.00am on Friday 20th March if you are a Key Worker in this category. We will not be able to provide provision without this identification.
2. Children who currently have ECHP plans or are defined as vulnerable and currently receiving support through Social Care. We will contact these parents/carers separately with further information as soon as we can.

The school will be planning the type and level of provision it is able to reasonably provide for both categories of students under 1 and 2 above after discussing this issue with the other high schools in Harrow and the Local Authority. Please in the meantime do not send your students to school on Monday 23rd March unless we have communicated with you directly.

We appreciate the huge shock and distress the news that the public examinations will not be happening in May and June and will communicate about this issue as soon as we have more information and details.

We have been preparing for the possibility of moving learning on to the learning platform. Students will be able to access their learning remotely. If students need paper versions, we will do our best to accommodate.

Teachers in different parts of the world who have been teaching online for the last five weeks advise that although the initial few days are challenging, students soon adapt to the new way of working. We will be monitoring use of the learning platforms and we will be in contact if work is not being completed by the deadlines set. Your child/ren will need to make daily contact with their tutor to tell us what work they have been doing each day. Students do have to learn to be more independent,

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1PL Tel: [020 8952 2803](tel:02089522803) Fax: 020 8952 6975 www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk

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and in the long term this is certainly a positive development, as they need to take more responsibility for their own learning as they progress through school.

The lack of social interaction can be a particular challenge for young people, so we will in time be including some personal development activities for students. There will be more screen time than most students are used to, so managing time away from electronic devices is also recommended. E-safety will be important for families. I do recommend that you discuss this with your children, set your boundaries and expectations and proactively monitor your child's smartphone and social media channels to provide them with any support they may need. Encourage your child to keep to a routine of learning and completing the tasks set by their teachers so that they are ready for school when we re-open.

We will continue to communicate with you regularly. I know there will be a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty at this time. Thank you for your patience and support. I recommend that you check on the school websites which we update with any information that is made available to us.

In difficult situations communities can show their strength, and I know that the Park High community has already begun to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs O'Dwyer
Headteacher