



CRESTWOOD
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

KDS/JSS

18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Update - Wednesday 18th March 2020

Apologies for the delay in this communication but my Senior Team have been meeting personally and via group conferencing this evening to decide the best immediate response.

As many of you will be aware the Government has announced that all schools are to close from Friday to the majority of students **indefinitely**. This means we do not know when we will operate normally again. However, we will be asked to provide education for students with a social worker, those on an EHCP and students whose parents are key workers. We are aware of the students who fall into the first two categories but as yet we are awaiting Government advice as to the definition of key workers.

We are heartbroken for our Year 11s who will no longer be sitting the GCSEs they have worked so hard towards. We are unclear as yet as to what the Government and Ofqual will do to award grades however we urge Year 11 to continue studying until we know the way forward. Year 11 must continue studying as it will still have a positive impact on their GCSEs, however awarded. Whilst I agree with the Government's decision to support students in this manner but it is a very difficult decision to accept knowing the fantastic students and seeing the way they have worked through their time at Crestwood.

Our intention is that, if we are allowed, the Year 11 prom will still go ahead as planned. We will try to make plans to hold our normal leavers assembly so that Year 11 leave with the love and adoration they deserve. We know that each and every Year 11 are part of our very special #Crestwoodfamily and we are going to ensure that we celebrate their moving on to the next stage of education as we would always do.

Our aim is to continue with updates for all so that we all feel we are united and in touch at such an important time.

Partial Closures for the rest of the week

Due to continued staff absence we have taken the following actions:

- Closed to Years 8 and 9 pupils only on Thursday 19.3.20
- Closed to Years 8, 9 and 10 on Friday 20.3.20

Crestwood Community School

Shakespeare Campus, Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 4FZ | Cherbourg Campus, Cherbourg Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5EL

Email: adminoffice@crestwood.hants.sch.uk Tel: 023 8064 1232 Web: www.crestwood.hants.sch.uk



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We will be working on the plan for the education we will be able to offer to the students eligible from Monday 23rd March. We will update the parents concerned as more information becomes available. **Please note, this education might not be available immediately from Monday 23rd March.**

Although the Government has announced that school may be open at Easter, Crestwood will not be open, as many staff have commitments and I have taken the decision that they need a break as well to ensure they are fit and well to face the challenges in the summer term.

Working from home:

- **Details of the work students can do from home will be sent to all parents on Thursday 19 March.**
- If your child has forgotten their logins please contact itsupport@crestwood.hants.sch.uk
- Please be patient with staff as they endeavour to upload work to be accessible for students.
- If your child is ill they are not required to complete any work until they are well enough to do so.
- If your child is self-isolating then we would encourage them to self study at home via this method.
- If your child does not have access to the internet please contact justine.sayers@crestwood.hants.sch.uk so we can organise, in time, paper booklets. These will be available from reception on Friday 20.3.20.
- All staff will endeavour to make contact with their classes once a week, unless they are unwell and unable to do so.
- Regular support will be provided via the school email system as staff will be working remotely throughout the period of school closure.

Students in need of emotional support:

- We will be setting up phone lines for students who require emotional support.
- These will be staffed by our highly skilled pastoral team
- They will operate from 9am - 2pm each day, Monday to Friday
- Numbers will be distributed by the end of this week.

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Free School Meals (FSM) in the result of closure

- The Prime Minister has stated that all FSM families will receive vouchers but as yet there are no details as to how this works.
- Therefore we will be providing for the next two weeks food parcels to support these families.
- These parcels will be provided in weekly issues, one per child.
- The first parcels will be available Monday 23rd from 9am - 11am from the Shakespeare Campus.
- The second parcel will be available on Monday 30th from 9am - 11am.
- From the week beginning the 20th April we should be available to offer vouchers as per Government guidance.

As you can imagine I have had many questions from parents this evening. I cannot answer them all personally because I simply do not know the answers. My team and I were hearing the news at the same time as you and as yet we are unclear as to what this means in real terms operationally. We will be spending time tomorrow considering the logistics of how this could possibly work and how best to support our community. I can imagine as a mother of a teenage child that the thought of him coming into school when his peers are not would cause a commotion in my household. Parents of the identified groups have the right to educate at home if they so wish and we would respect their right to do so.

If you think you might qualify as a key worker and would prefer that your child remains in school, please could you contact us as soon as possible at justine.sayers@crestwood.hants.sch.uk

I would like to say, on behalf of myself and my team, that your support over the entire period has been amazing. We will endeavour to support all of you in our #Crestwoodfamily. We will update you again tomorrow. Please stay safe and if you feel that you do not wish to send your child to school given today's information, we would support you in doing so.

Krista Dawkins
Head Teacher

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