



CRESTWOOD
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

KDS/JSS

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Update - Friday 20th March 2020

I apologise for the lateness in communicating to you today but as you can imagine my focus has been on our wonderful Year 11. I have to thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all your messages of support in what have been the most challenging of days. There will be no further updates over the weekend unless in the event of an emergency.

As you know we published a questionnaire regarding Critical Workers and we have made contact with our vulnerable student families to assess the level of need. As a result

- those who have successfully gained a place will receive an email this weekend confirming arrangements for Monday.
- please do not send your child in to school if you have not received an email as we are operating as an emergency service.

I fully accept that some parents have been upset about our robust approach regarding our stance on the statement in the guidance that states **“The government has asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend”** and

- Stay at home if anyone has symptoms (see advice further on in this update)
- Avoid all unnecessary contact
- Work from home where it is possible
- Avoid all social gatherings

I genuinely never meant to offend anyone but we have to be realistic in what we can provide safely. As many of you, no doubt, will have seen the measures taken by the Prime Minister today to close all pubs, clubs, restaurants, leisure facilities and theatres as of tonight, it is a clear indication of the crisis our country faces. We must take exceptionally seriously the restrictions imposed for the good of our families and community. I fully understand that parents are concerned but we have to comply with the regulations if we are to return to normality. Therefore I am truly grateful to those of you, especially our SEND students parents, that have seen the gravity of the situation and have minimised risk, wherever possible, are keeping their children at home safe, adhering to the government advice and protecting them from risk. **I also thank those parents that, whilst being extremely anxious, are allowing their teenage children to stay at home independently but safely, these are unprecedented times and you are all playing your part.**

For the week beginning 23rd March we will be providing an education for eligible and confirmed students only **on both campuses between the hours of 8.30am - 2pm.**

Students and staff are not required to wear uniform or professional dress.

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

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From the week beginning 30th March we will be providing an education for eligible and confirmed students only **at the CHERBOURG CAMPUS**. The reason behind this decision is that we can then aim to shut down the Shakespeare building to optimise our operational capacity across staffing and resources. **This also applies to the Pre-School provision.** The after school provision is closed.

Lunch will be available but it will be a very limited choice. Students who are eligible to pay will continue to do so. **Those in receipt of Free School Meals and their child qualifies to attend will receive the meal in school and are not eligible for the food parcels being distributed.**

For students and staff who are still attending the current medical advice needs to be strictly adhered to for the safety of all, which is stated below.

NHS guidance states

Stay at home if you have either:

- **a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)**
- **a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)**

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do.

How long to stay at home

- **if you have symptoms of coronavirus, you'll need to stay at home for 7 days**
- **if you live with someone who has symptoms, you'll need to stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person in the home started having symptoms**
- **If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else for them to stay for 14 days.**

If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.

The education that will be provided for those in school will not resemble normal lessons, nor fully follow the National Curriculum. The majority of students will be instructed to access the online work that is available to all students to ensure that the education is comparable across the cohorts. Students will be sat at acceptable social distances as guidelines suggest to avoid spread of the virus. We will be using as few rooms as possible to ensure that cleaning is maintained to a high standard with reduced staffing capacity.

All attendance procedures will apply and if your child is expected and does not attend contact will be made to ensure your child's safeguarding.

Behaviour systems will continue to be applied as normal.

We are able to stay open as an emergency service for our frontline critical workers because of dedicated staff and an amazing community unity from our parents. Thank you!

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Year 11

Whilst some schools simply let their students leave, we at #Crestwoodfamily pulled out all the stops to make our Year 11 feel special. Given the time frames in which we were working I was in awe of what the staff managed to achieve.

I give thanks to my site team, Ben Vass, Josh Buckingham and their Y11 and PE teams, Kaye Bezant, the kitchen team and Loretta Gray.

It was an emotional day but I cannot say what an immense sense of pride I felt seeing them all together, united in their uncertainty. They are truly remarkable young people.

The Government have released this guidance today which may go some way to alleviate Year 11 fears about how the grades are to be awarded. As further guidance comes out we will share it.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

As I have always said "It is not about who you are, or where you come from, but who you want to be and where you want to go", Year 11 you will be forever in our hearts and when the time is right, we will celebrate in our traditional manner your time at Crestwood.

Free School Meals (FSM) as the result of closure

- Until the end of April we will produce food parcels to support these families, these weeks include the Easter Holidays. These parcels will be provided in weekly issues, one per child. In these food parcels will be recipe ideas that you could cook with the food provided as well as a range of goods. Please remember we are feeding each child equalling £12 per week, not families.
- 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 also available from the Shakespeare campus.
- The 3rd and 4th Parcels will be available on Friday 3rd April 10am - 12pm, to cover the weeks beginning 6th April and 13th April. These parcels will be available from the Shakespeare Campus.
- For families who are unable to collect their parcels in exceptional circumstances we will endeavour to deliver, however we welcome parents who could volunteer their services. Please contact alan.hussey@crestwood.hants.sch.uk for either delivery or volunteering it would be much appreciated.
- **Those in receipt of Free School Meals and their child qualifies to attend school, and they wish to send them, as prescribed by the Government, to receive their meals in school and are not eligible for the food parcels being distributed.**

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Collecting work, books and resources from school

Students in Years 7 to 10 will be able to collect books from their home campus at the following times on Monday 23rd March to support study at home:

- Y7: 11 - 11:45am
- Y8: 12 - 12:45pm
- Y9: 1 - 1:45pm
- Y10: 2 - 2:45pm

Books will be available from the student's tutor base/room.

Students can also collect things from their lockers but are kindly asked to leave the site promptly so that we can clear the area before other students arrive. .

Working from home

- [Details of the work students can do from home was 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 and at the allotted Year Group times on Monday 23.03.20.
- 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 - starting on Monday 23rd March 2020
- Numbers are as follows
Zena Smith - 07385 252141
Denise Sharp - 07385 252049
Michaila Dieng - 07385 252050
Karla Walters - 07388 376789

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We have also set up a site with useful links to external services and resources to support those in need of advice on a wide range of subjects - please follow the link below to find out more:

https://padlet.com/tim_nash/o0qarrip7u3g

We are #Crestwoodfamily

Krista Dawkins
Head Teacher

Crestwood Community School

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