

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
20:30hrs

Dear Families,

**Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update, SCHOOL CLOSED TO YEAR 8 and 9 on THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

### **Partial Closure**

We have taken the decision that Burton Borough School will be closed to both year 8 and 9 students on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Unfortunately, we are now experiencing staff shortages due to self-isolation/underlying medical issues which means that we will not be able to fully open to all year groups. I know that this will present with difficulties for some families and we apologise for this in advance. However, it has reached a stage where it is now unavoidable.

**School will remain open for our year 7, 10 and 11 students for the next two days.**

Following from the government's announcement this afternoon, **Burton Borough School will be shut to all students from next week except for the children of 'key workers'** (e.g. NHS staff, delivery drivers, police), **and those who are in vulnerable groups** (e.g. EHCPs, has a social worker). A full list of 'key workers' will be published by the Cabinet Office tomorrow. Once we have this information, **we will send out an online form for families**. Those who come under this category should complete it so that we know your child will be attending school. Further information on this will follow following my meeting with the senior leadership team tomorrow. If our staffing levels are too low, the local authority will work with the Department of Education to ensure an alternative option is available.

**Students who do not come from 'key worker' families should remain at home and complete the work set on Show My Home Work.**

Arrangements for students with **free school meals** will be made so that they can either collect a meal or voucher. More details of this to follow.

### **Year 11**

**All GCSE exams in May and June have been cancelled.** The Department for Education and Ofqual have said that they will ensure students get the qualifications they need. Once we have further information on the exact details of what will happen, we will immediately inform families.

*Continued...*



We are also very aware that our year 11 students want to be able to celebrate their final year at Burton Borough School. We will endeavour to ensure that an event is arranged so that this can happen as it is a very special time for our young people. Once we have the details of this, we will inform our students and families as soon as possible. I would be very grateful if families can reassure their young people at this time that we will do all that we can as a school to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.

**If your child recently received a marked mock paper from their teacher, we would appreciate if these could be returned.** If your family is currently self-isolating, we would be grateful if these papers could be scanned/photo taken and emailed back to the relevant member of staff.

### **Absences**

If your child is currently being self-isolated and we are aware, there is no need to phone every day that they are in isolation. **We will automatically code the registers for 14 days accordingly so that staff know.** However, if your child's symptoms do not get better after 14 days, please contact us again.

We are now receiving huge numbers of calls from families. **Please keep your messages concise by only saying your child's name, form group, year group and reason for absence.**

**If you are unable to get through by telephone to report an absence,** you can also contact us via the **contact form on the website or on the following email:**

[attendance.bbs@taw.org.uk](mailto:attendance.bbs@taw.org.uk)

We received an overwhelming number of positive messages via our contact form, email and social media today. We would like to thank all families for your kindness and your understanding. We are all trying to do the best that we can in a new situation, and it is heart-warming to see our community working together.

Yours faithfully,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



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ETHICAL LEADERSHIP  
IN EDUCATION  
PATHFINDER

