



19 March 2020
lrt/jcl/stj/schoolclosure

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – SCHOOL CLOSURE

Dear Parents and Carers

Many of you will be aware that yesterday the Secretary of State for Education Gavin Williamson announced all schools would close on Friday 20th March however they would remain open for key workers and most vulnerable children. I realise that there is an unsettling period ahead for many of us just now and we have really valued all your support and messages of encouragement.

So, for the majority of our pupils, Friday will be their last day in school for an unspecified period of time. We are currently awaiting further clarification as to what constitutes a key worker and other details on who will need to attend school from next week. If you think this may well be of some benefit to you, please can you complete the forms questionnaire which has been sent out to you this afternoon as soon as possible.

I am keen to update you on the following decisions which we hope will help the Academy prepare for the next stage in this crisis and these include:

- Making today (19/03/2020) the last day for all years except Year 7. The youngest year group will complete Friday (20/03/2020) with us before leaving.
- Reassuring Years 11 and 13 pupils after the Secretary of State's sudden announcement, that we are 100% behind them in ensuring that they will not be disadvantaged regarding their GCSE and A Level exam results. At the moment, we are having to go with the decision that all Summer exams have been cancelled. Having said that, it is really important that pupils in these affected year groups do not give up on their studies; we just can't be certain what the Government might bring in by way of assessment. To that end, we are keeping in close contact with Ofqual to ensure that we can update pupils as soon as we can.
- On Monday 23rd March, the school will only be open to staff, but will reopen to identified students on Tuesday 24th March. If this applies to your child, you will be contacted separately.

To be in the position where we say goodbye to the vast majority of our pupils for the foreseeable future is unheard of. Please be assured though that we will be in touch with you all regularly and St John's will be open for as long as we are able to keep it that way. Can I remind you again of the covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk email as a way of keeping in touch with us about issues relating to the current situation. It is the best way to get to us but please also use the school website for regular updates.

Take very good care of yourselves.

Yours faithfully

Ian Tucker
Principal

