



King
Egbert
School

*Celebrating 50 years of King Egbert School
1969-2019*

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Haigh
Chair of Governors: Mrs Karen Milbourn

Date: 19 March 2020

Our Ref: PHA/fh

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus update Thursday 19 March 2020

As you are aware, the school system will shut down from Monday across the country.

As I wrote yesterday we have been making preparations for this and work will be set online for all our students.

I want to remind you that it is crucial that students have good habits with home study while at home and should be working between 9.00am and 3.15pm in accordance with work set following their timetable. Their teachers will be available (where their own health and caring responsibilities allow) via email and our other online learning systems to provide live support when they would have a lesson. I've also asked teachers to stick to the timetable and not provide interactive learning outside of school hours so they can maintain a healthy work and home life routine.

Opening for children of keyworkers and vulnerable students

We have been asked by the government to provide a safe place and childcare for the children of keyworkers and vulnerable students such as those with an EHCP.

Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, told the BBC that school "is going to be a safe place for those [vulnerable] children to be, it's not going to be an educational setting. They're not going to be teaching the national curriculum". Parents will need to make a decision about whether their children are safer in school or at home.

We have a substantially reduced workforce in school at the moment because of the health and family situations of our staff. From next week we will be encouraging social distancing and will have a skeleton staff in to ensure the most vulnerable are safe. The staff in school will be supporting students in accessing the on-line learning that's been made available.



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Additional safeguarding measures are being put in place to support students where there is risk within the family or home setting.

The list of jobs that are considered key workers is due to be published today and when it is, we will publish it on the school website. In the meantime, we would ask that if you believe that your role might fall into one of the key worker categories, that you e-mail us at officemanager@ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk with details of your role, employer and which days/times you would require your children to attend school. Once we receive further details of the criteria that must be met to access childcare at this time then we will be able to use this information to ascertain what staff we require to remain in school and when.

GCSE and A level exams

Summer exams will not happen. I have given assemblies to all Year 11 and Year 13 students who are in school today but obviously many can't be due to self-isolation.

The Government is clear that arrangements will be made to ensure all students get the qualifications they deserve. Gavin Williamson said "GCSE and A level students will still get grades and the proper recognition they deserve. We will ensure that no child is unfairly penalised."

The aim will be to ensure all students can progress in the autumn to the right next stage in education or employment and their life plans can stay on track. We will follow the national system exactly as instructed; please do not send in questions about your child's grades - at the moment we have no further information, but I would ask you to try not to worry about that.

I have spoken to Year 11 and Year 13 students to say continuing to study, despite the fact exams won't happen is what I'd like them to do. To have the knowledge and understanding that GCSEs provide to start A levels, and that A levels provide to start a degree, will give them something positive to focus on.

Other year groups

I have spoken to Year 10 and Year 12 to impress on them the importance of following our study programme because they will be sitting exams in 2021 and must minimise lost learning. Although I fully expect examinations to be adjusted, they should use the time they have wisely and we can actually have our students better prepared than might have been expected.

I have spoken to Year 7 but sadly not Year 8 and Year 9 because they are already at home, but the message to those students is Virtual School opens on Monday and they need to get down to work in school time and keep a structure and discipline to their day for their wellbeing and family harmony.

Free school meals

Arrangements are being made to ensure children on free school meals get food each day. We know who those families are and will contact them directly when the scheme is set up.

Arrangements for Friday 20 March

As I mentioned in my letter yesterday, we have asked that children in Year 8 and Year 9 remain at home (with the exception of the children of those where their parents' work is directly related to managing the crisis). They should not attend, our staffing is very short.

I must remind you that if students have been off school with a persistent cough and/or temperature then they and the whole household should be self-isolating. These students must not return to school on Friday.

Remember it is non-uniform day tomorrow (Friday) raising money for the Children's Hospital and I can't think of a more fitting charity at this time so it is going ahead. Make sure clothes are safe and appropriate for school and don't for your £1

Yours faithfully



Mr P Haigh
Headteacher

