



Lealands High School

A Specialist Sports College

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Lealands High School

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Thursday 19th March 2020

Re School Closure Update

Dear parent/carer,

You will be aware that schools will be closed to most pupils from Monday 23rd March as part of the Government's strategy to delay the spread of Covid-19.

This is an indefinite closure and could continue for some considerable time. In preparation for this possibility, staff have been setting up Google Classroom accounts and classes for their students. Staff have been going through how to access and use Google Classroom for online home learning.

Students will be expected to continue all their lessons using the online resources provided. It is crucial that they do this so that they do not get behind in their learning and courses. If this situation continues, there will not be the time to catch up everything in school. We have been asking parents and students to let us know if they do not have access to online learning at home so that we can support with this.

It is important that students stay in a good learning routine and parents need to monitor and support this. They should get up and start school work at the normal time. Teachers will be monitoring any submissions requested and awarding Step Points for completing their work. In the main, teachers will be available to answer student questions and to communicate with them via Google Classroom or school email accounts. Please do also check that your child is using the internet safely and following the safe internet advice on our website. If students have any issues logging into their accounts they can email passwords@lealands.luton.sch.uk.

Please be patient with us at this time. There has been very little time for staff to prepare for this and some will have their own concerns and health worries. It is a difficult time for everyone. If staff are ill and unable to set and monitor work, we will do our best to supplement this in the circumstances.

The Government is expecting schools to provide for and be open to pupils in certain vulnerable group categories as well as those of key workers. We have chased this up and are still awaiting the official list of key workers promised today (7pm on 19th March). When we have this, we will start to make contact to see who is requesting this provision for their child. Please be aware that we will not be able to accept any student into school who falls outside of these categories. This is because the purpose is to limit contact by dramatically reducing numbers in schools whilst ensuring we can try to provide for these students with a potentially much reduced workforce.

We will be putting in arrangements for food to be available for families in receipt of free school meals. Our caterers are planning to provide weekly food parcels that can be collected from reception for those who are eligible for free school meals in the first instance.

The Government have confirmed that GCSE examinations will not go ahead for Year 11 students in May and June this year. This is disappointing as students have been working very hard towards these and we were expecting some of the best results we have had. However, the Government have said that students will get results and certificates. They have said details of how this will be achieved will be released on Friday. Whilst we remain unsure, we are getting our Year 11 students to ensure that their coursework is all completed as much as possible to the highest standard. We have significant amounts of evidence of achievement from mocks, assessments and classwork which is likely to be used as part of the evidence to award GCSEs this year. We are confident that whatever system is used, our Year 11 students will do well and get the results they deserve. We will also look to ensure that they have an appropriate final get together at whatever stage this becomes possible.

These are very difficult and challenging times for us all. I hope that you and your family are not seriously affected by the current outbreak. We are all hoping to get back to normal in the not too distant future, whilst preparing for a long period should that be necessary.

From Monday, our normal communication channels will remain open. If you have a general query, you can use the parent app or email admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can telephone the school and the majority of staff will be available to deal with any concerns or queries that you have. We would encourage you to keep in contact with us and keep us informed.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please be assured we will do our very best to support our school community during this uncertain period.

Yours sincerely,



John Burridge
Headteacher