



19th March 2020

Coronavirus Update 6

Dear Parents and Guardians

I had hoped to be able to write to you with further details today following the government's announcement last night that all schools are to close tomorrow. I'm afraid that in the absence of such an announcement I am unable to give very much further information but I did want to communicate a few details to you about arrangements for tomorrow at Halliford School.

I am delighted that the School has very much responded to my request for business as usual and it has been lovely to see our students getting on with their studies with my magnificent staff who are continuing to teach them well and to set work in close liaison with absent colleagues. We are very lucky to have such dedicated staff here at Halliford and I am incredibly grateful to all those of you who have sent in such lovely messages of support at this time.

Public Examination Groups

Understandably our Year 11 and Upper Sixth students have been left in complete limbo in a most ill-conceived announcement by the government and along with my colleagues on the Senior Management Team we have been doing our best to support them all today. I am led to believe that there will be no further announcement regarding arrangements for these students until tomorrow. I can assure you that I have made my views on this matter known to those in positions of responsibility and I just hope that tomorrow we will be able to provide our students with some reassurance and guidance with regards their Public Examinations. My advice to our students today has been that all young people of their age in the UK will be equally affected by this decision, but I realise this is little consolation to them. Please can I ask you not to try and second guess what the outcomes may be as this only seeks to potentially add further anxiety to an already incredibly emotional time for these young people. As I said last night, please rest assured that as a School we will be doing all that we possibly can to act in their very best interests and with integrity.

Key Workers

Unfortunately, we have equally been left in the dark regarding the definition of 'key workers' from the government and whilst there is broad recognition that this is likely to include families involved with the NHS, the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Prison Services, the Armed Forces, Teachers, Social Care, Social Services and potentially Supermarket workers and Delivery Drivers along with Infrastructure workers. In order for us to try and plan to help any Halliford families who fall into this position and would like us to offer support next week, please could you email my PA Claire Worrell head.pa@hallifordschool.co.uk with your son / daughter's name, your occupation and place of work and as soon as we can we will be able to let you know further arrangements. Please do bear in mind that next week I have asked that my staff focus on delivering and preparing lessons for remote teaching and I am sure that arrangements for access to the school site will be quite strictly controlled. We will aim to offer a service to parents between 8.00am and 4.00pm but will expect students to be working as they would be from home using a laptop and their class books. I am afraid that it

will not be possible to offer any school bus services during this time due to the availability of coaches with our transport providers who are also having to comply with the latest government guidance.

Friday 20th March 2020

As tomorrow looks likely to be the last time that we will be together as a community I am keen that whilst we keep business as usual we also do something to mark what will be the end to a very busy term. I have therefore arranged for Year 11 and the Upper Sixth to have a celebration day. For the remainder of the school I would like to propose that we offer a 'mufti day' for all students and would ask that you send your son into school with a donation which we will be sending to the Manna Food Bank to help support the most vulnerable in our community at this difficult time. We will operate our lessons as usual and then in the afternoon we will offer a series of inter-house sporting activities for the boys to enjoy and get involved with. I am very grateful to Mr Greggor for arranging these at very short notice. Please can you arrange for your son to bring his usual Games Kit and footwear for these sessions if possible.

Finally I have managed with the kind agreement of the manager at Tesco Sunbury to provide our students with a small Easter gift to take home tomorrow and enjoy as a token of my appreciation for their good will and incredibly resilient and mature approach to this situation. For those currently self-isolating we will keep their gift in school for the next term whenever that may be – I have checked that they have a long sell buy date!

I will write with further details on remote learning tomorrow and will hopefully then be in a position to update you with regards the Public Examination and Key Worker supervision issues. In the meantime I would just like to thank you all again for your considerable support and understanding.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.