

19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus update – School closure to most pupils

Following advice yesterday from the UK government, I am writing to inform you that from **Monday 23rd March**, school will be closed to **almost all children** until further notice.

However, should parents/carers require their child to attend, school will **remain open for the following students**,

- Our most vulnerable learners including students with EHCP's and those with a social worker

And for students whose parents/carers work in the following occupations:

- National Health Service
- Armed forces
- Teachers and childcare staff
- Care home workers
- Social workers
- Police officers, community support, civilian staff
- Prison officers or other probation staff
- Firefighters
- Local authority planners
- Environmental health officers
- Highway Agency traffic officers
- Emergency service workers, including health staff, delivery drivers and all first responders.

Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care.

IMPORTANT – ACTION REQUIRED:

If you think your child may fall into one of these categories and you are intending to send your child into school on Monday, please send an email by Friday 20th March, 11am to info@pleckgate.com with the following information.

Email Title: Attending school next week

Details required: Name, and tutor group of child. Days they will be attending school i.e. Monday to Friday or only certain days during the week

As a school, we will continue to ensure families have contact with you at least once per week via our school text, email and phone call systems. Regular updates will also be posted on our school website at www.pleckgate.com and via twitter @pleckgatehigh

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

The government has also announced that to support children eligible for free school meals, schools will be able to purchase meals or vouchers for supermarkets or local shops. More details on this are to follow shortly.



SILVER QUALITY MARK 2016 –2018

Pleckgate High School
Pleckgate Road, Blackburn
Lancashire, BB1 8QA



Religious Education Council
of England and Wales



Secondary
School of the
Year 2016 & 2017



Education
Partnership
Trust

Call **01254 249134**
E-mail info@pleckgate.com
Visit pleckgate.com

Guidance: The continuation of learning

Over the past few weeks, staff have been working hard to ensure learning can continue in the event of a school closure. At Pleckgate, every pupil has an iPad and this will be the primary means for students to continue to learn over the coming weeks.

The expectation for us at school is that although the building is closed, both staff and students are still continuing to work, particularly students who were due to sit GCSE examinations in the coming weeks. Although the government has announced these exams will not take place, we don't know whether students will still be expected to take examinations at a later date, and therefore it is essential that **year 11 students continue to prepare for examinations** at some point, keeping knowledge fresh in their minds.

- Every student and their parent has a log in for **Doddle** (please see separate email to follow). This will be the primary portal used by staff to communicate what work is to be completed.
- Work will be set by teachers through Doddle. As a parent, you can log into this portal and check that your child is completing this work.
- If you have any issues, your child will be able to contact their teacher via email or one of the apps that facilitate this.

Safeguarding

- Please rest assured that all the usual iPad safeguarding measures will remain in place. This includes daily monitoring by a member of staff, and should there be any misuse or concerns that arise, you will be contacted.
- If you feel that you require additional support or have any safeguarding concerns about any children these can be reported to the local safeguarding team on: 01254 666400

General guidance re: Covid-19

- Anyone with a fever or persistent cough should stay at home for seven days if they live alone or 14 days if they live with others. Anyone who lives with someone displaying coronavirus symptoms should also stay at home for 14 days. **People who have to isolate themselves** should ask others for help.
- Everyone should stop non-essential contact and travel, working at home where possible. This is particularly important for people over 70, those with underlying health conditions and pregnant women.
- By the weekend, those with the most serious health conditions should be largely shielded from social contact for 12 weeks
- If you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Please continue to visit the school website and follow us on twitter for regular updates. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well, advise you to strictly follow government guidance and stay safe and healthy.

I look forward to welcoming students back into school at the earliest opportunity.

Best wishes



Mr M Cocker
Headteacher