

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus update – School closure to most pupils

Following the announcement last night from the UK government, I am writing to inform you that school will be closed to **almost all children** until further notice.

However, school will **remain open for the following students**:

- Our most vulnerable learners including students with EHCP's and those with a social worker should attend school.
- Students who have one or more parent who is a key worker and who are not able to remain at home are also welcome to attend school.

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 and have not previously informed us, please inform us by emailing the following information to info@pleckgate.com

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

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school until further notice

The government has also announced that they will continue to support children eligible for free school meals, so we will be continuing with the existing voucher scheme for eligible families.

Guidance: The continuation of learning

At Pleckgate, every pupil has an iPad and this will be the primary means for students to continue to learn over the coming weeks.

Students who are at home, will be required to follow their usual timetable with teachers providing remote learning resources for every lesson through Google classroom and regular live learning to support this. We need your support to ensure that students attend every lesson and are engaging fully in their work. The procedures for remote learning are on the school's website and can be found by following this [link](#). Parents and students are reminded that the schools behaviour policy and Remote Learning code of conduct apply to students who are learning remotely.

The expectation for us at school is that although the building is closed, both staff and students are still continuing to work hard, particularly students in year 10 and year 11 who are due to sit GCSE examinations in the coming weeks. Although the government has announced these exams are being reviewed, we don't know whether students will still be expected to take examinations or be assessed in some other way, and therefore it is essential that **year 11 students continue to prepare for examinations**, keeping knowledge fresh in their minds.

Every piece of work students in year 10 & 11 they complete whilst in lockdown could be a crucial piece of evidence to support a judgement on a student's grade at a later date.



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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 must stay at home. If you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#). **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.
- Those with the most serious health conditions should be largely shielded from social contact.

As a school, we will continue to ensure families have contact with you regularly 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

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

