

Wednesday 25th March, 2020.



Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

School remains open to support our most vulnerable pupils and also children of key workers undertaking work in our local community to stop the spread of infection, save lives, support the most vulnerable and keep the country's most vital services up and running. Can I pass on my thanks to the members of our school community and their loved ones who are undertaking this essential work.

We want to support you and your family to ensure that you can carry out these duties without having to worry about child care arrangements. So we continue to operate in order to provide a provision for your children and are happy to provide them with a safe environment during the day, a place where they can access their learning through TEAMS and to complete the work set by their staff.

Whilst we're happy to support the national effort to beat the spread of the Coronavirus, I think it's important to stress that pupils should only attend school where absolutely necessary. The government have stated that we should remain at home where we can to "socially distance" ourselves from others and therefore slow the spread of the virus. With this in mind, where pupils can safely remain at home, they should do so.

We will be offering a provision to support the families of key workers during the Easter holidays and will contact the parents of those children in the coming days to discuss this so we can plan effectively.

As you know, work is being set by staff following the usual school timetable through TEAMS. Pupils are expected to login to TEAMS access resources and use the chat function to ask staff any questions they may have. We are all, of course, having to adapt to a new way of working and it's hard to believe that it's only the third day of closure to the majority of pupils. We've had some excellent response from pupils on TEAMS and on the whole it's been working well.

As time progresses we will be looking to extend our use and widen our provision and we'll issue guidance around this through the website. In the first instance we've setup a new group related to careers; firstly a new TEAM will be launching for Year 11 based on careers and there will be information being added related to our various career clusters to support pupil pathways. In addition to this we've managed to secure the opportunity for pupils to still access career interviews with our career advice service over the phone.

Some pupils may find themselves in the situation of having an unexpected end to their Year 11 and would like some advice on how to progress or with their college or apprenticeship application. If this is the case please email careersappointment@penkethhigh.org to request an appointment and we'll work with our career service to arrange this on your behalf.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin
Principal.

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