



19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I am now writing to let you know that we have been directed by the Secretary of State for Education to close the school to almost all children **after this Friday March 20th until further notice.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of Key Workers* and children with certain needs.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think you or your child may fall into one of these categories, via the email address dorans@uptonhigh.co.uk

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

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is. Please keep an eye on our website and for further *Schoolcomms* emails for any updates.

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

As well as the cancellations about which I have already informed you, unfortunately we will now have to postpone all planned trips for the rest of this academic year, which means that the following cannot go ahead as originally scheduled:

- The Year 7 Residential in June
- The History Department Battlefields visit in July
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Gold expeditions
- Year 11 and 13 Proms

The organisers of these events will be in touch with all of those involved as soon as they have any more information.

Whilst we realise that this is a significant and unprecedented situation, we are doing all that we can to support our young people with their continued learning and have prepared a suite of resources for each year group and in each subject which can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12f0LTxb4Kibwfo021Tk-ga7o9595DhutNk3mznQmq4/edit?usp=sharing>



Learning to shape the future

Headteacher: Mrs P Dixon BA(Hons), NPQH

Please support your child to undertake these tasks and keep in touch with their teachers via email if there are any issues.

Year 11 and 13 GCSE, BTEC and A Level Exams

We have also been informed that all summer term exams have been cancelled but that students will receive the qualifications which they need. We have no further information on this as yet but will of course update you as soon as we hear from the Department for Education.

I will be writing to the parents/carers of years 11 and 13 separately.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it is far from ideal, but we will continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please do not hesitate to do so via our admin@uptonhigh.co.uk.

Thank you again for your continued support, and I will be in touch with more information as soon as I can.

With my very best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Paula Dixon
Headteacher

*As guidance the UK government has previously suggested the following examples of key workers:

- NHS staff
- 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
- Supermarket delivery drivers