

18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is likely that you have seen the news today regarding the government's decision to close all schools in England for most students from this Friday 20th March. Schools are being asked to stay open for children of key workers and for students in certain other groups. The government has announced that GCSE exams will not run in May and June as planned but we have no further information yet on how students will be assessed. Schools will not re-open before the Easter break and no guarantees have been given that we will re-open immediately after the Easter break. This measure is being introduced to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the hope that more lives will be saved. Unpalatable though it is, we understand that schools closing is an important plank in the UK government's strategy to control the virus.

We will remain open to Year 11 students only tomorrow Thursday 19th March and Friday 20th March. Year 11 students may come in between the hours of 8:30am and 3:00pm on these days if they wish to complete work on their NEAs (non-examined assessments) in Music, Drama, Art, PE and DT. We believe that there is value in them completing coursework given that we do not yet know how their learning will be assessed this year. They may also simply wish to come in to collect books and speak to staff and we welcome this; in line with government advice, we cannot provide a venue simply for socialising, but we welcome them coming into school to complete work and organise themselves for the closure. Please can students sign in and out at reception and bring their own food as there will not be a canteen service (students in receipt of free school meals will be catered for).

The school will be closed to all other students from tomorrow, including those in Year 7 and Year 10. From Monday 23rd March we will be closed to all students in line with government instruction, except for those identified by the government. A survey has been sent to all parents/carers today; please complete and return this as soon as you can so that we can plan provision for the students we are being asked to accommodate.

I understand that many students will be anxious about coronavirus and the loss of their learning time. I have written to them separately today and would be grateful if you could ensure your child/children have had sight of my letter to them.

As I said to students in that letter, please be reassured that school staff are not viewing this enforced closure as a "holiday". We will ensure that we set meaningful work for students in all year groups, in line with our contingency planning. Work will be set weekly for students in Years 7-10 using the Show My Homework online platform. Work will be online by midday on Monday for the week. Work will be set daily for Year 11 students, in line with their usual timetables. Again, the work will be set on Show My Homework and teachers may use other appropriate platforms that students are familiar with. All Year 11 students have a school email account (and we have checked

they can access it) through which they can submit completed work to staff and receive feedback from staff.

Similarly, we do not yet have information on plans for families in receipt of free school meals during the school closure period but we will keep these families updated if and when plans are communicated. A sincere thank you to everyone who sent in food items today to be passed on to those in need in our community; we had a wonderful response to this short notice request and are immensely grateful for this.

We are conscious that some families will be wanting updates on refunds arising from cancelled clubs and trips and the finance team will be in contact on these in due course.

During the period of school closure our phone lines will not be routinely staffed. Parents can contact the school via the following email addresses:

- admin@kingsschoolhove.org.uk – all general enquiries
- finance@kingsschoolhove.org.uk – any finance related queries
- Subject email addresses to contact heads of department, and email address for Heads of Year, can be found on our website here:
<https://www.kingsschoolhove.org.uk/contactus.php>

Email accounts will be monitored as usual during the closure period and parents and carers can expect responses to communications within usual timeframes.

We are going to post up a weekly worship resource on Show My Homework that students will be able to access, in lieu of their tutor collective worship times. You may wish to view these as a family and discuss the content together.

As the school closes temporarily, I will continue to pray for the good health of every member of our school community; for those who will be placed under financial strain during this challenging period; and for our national and international leaders as they work together to combat this virus. Thank you for the understanding and support you have given the school staff as the coronavirus situation has unfolded over the past few weeks; it is deeply appreciated. I will continue to keep in close contact with you all and hope that our gates will be open again in the not too distant future.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Price
Headteacher