



OLD BUCKENHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

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19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

I am writing to keep you up to date with the situation regarding the closure of our school. As you know, the government have announced that all schools will close indefinitely from the end of the day tomorrow. This is a fast-changing situation and, like you, I am afraid we still have more questions than answers. As soon as clear information comes to us, we will pass it on to you. For now, I can confirm:

- We will be providing work on-line for all our students through Go4Schools and we are taking time today and tomorrow to ensure that all our young people have a good understanding of how to access and undertake their work. Our teachers will continue to set appropriate tasks in line with our curriculum and will endeavor to respond to the students' work. Please go to the 'Home Learning' tab on the top left-hand side of the website to find the work, along with instructions, support and links for further independent study. As it is unclear how long this period of closure will last, we feel it is important that students are able to keep up with the planned curriculum content across the subjects that they study. If as parents, you need any further support in order to support your child, please contact the subject teacher in the first instance.
- If you are able to set up a work space at home for your child to use during this period of school closure, it would be really helpful. Making sure that they have a table top or an area where they can complete their work away from too many distractions would really support them in their ongoing learning.
- Year 11 are expected to complete work, just like the rest of the school. We have not yet received information about arrangements regarding assessment for GCSE but will, of course, let you know about this as we learn more. It is important for Year 11 to continue to study: this time next year they will all be back in education and working towards their next qualification.
- We know that it is not always easy for students to access a computer; for those who are not able to do this, we will provide packs of work in paper form.
- We are pleased that education on site is to be provided for children with social workers and those with EHCPs. If this affects you and your child, we will be contacting you shortly with further information about how and when your child will be supported.



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- On-site education is also to be provided for those whose parents are 'key workers'. We do not yet know the government's definition of a 'key worker' and hope that this information will arrive soon. As soon as we know more, we will write again to find out which of you fall under this category. Again, what the arrangements are for these children, including how and when this is to happen, is still to be agreed.
- We are aware that there is concern about provision of meals to those students who usually receive free school meals. We are pleased to be able to tell you that we hope to be providing a token for use in supermarkets. More details will follow.
- Year 9 will be worrying about what is happening around their Options choices. We have made a good start to this process and will continue to put things in place behind the scenes. A separate letter will be sent to parents of Year 9 to give more detail.
- We are very sad to be saying goodbye to our Year 11 students so abruptly. We are going to have a special day with them tomorrow. We will have an assembly Period 4, followed by a pizza lunch and a celebration throughout Period 5 with music (courtesy of the Year 11 School Band) and laughter.
- We won't lose touch with this fantastic group of young people; together we are already talking about reorganising the Prom when everything settles down, hopefully by the Autumn. We also commit to making sure they are all able to continue their education successfully and happily. They have conducted themselves fantastically today, showing us how they are growing up to be fine young men and women: a credit to us all.
- **Of course, sadly, any child who has been absent unwell since Monday, or is in self-isolation, may not come into school tomorrow, for the safety of our whole population. We wish them well.**

Please remember – although your child may not be able to come into school for a while, we are still available and our students remain the focus of all our attention. You will be able to contact us at any time; we will always endeavour to answer your questions and to support you.

I will write again tomorrow, when I hope to be able to update you further. My continued thanks for all your messages of goodwill and support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Fell  
Headteacher

