

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Important information regarding pupil attendance – from Monday 23 March 2020

Firstly, thank you for the very supportive approach that you have taken during these exceptionally challenging times. As I have made clear, Old Buckenham High School will remain at the heart of our community. **Whilst we are formally closed from Monday 23 March** onwards, we will continue to support your child, both academically and pastorally.

Special opening from Monday 23 March for the children of key workers

Key workers

At midnight, the government published a list of those parent / carers who are entitled to send their child to school. The link below provides specific details.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We are grateful to all of the key workers who are looking after us all. In return, my colleagues are also going to 'step up to the plate' and provide provision for your child / children for as long as we reasonably can. It is critical to note, however, that this provision should only be taken up if there are no other alternatives (see guidance). **In the best interests of your child and my colleagues, we wish to minimise risk and pupils should only attend where it is absolutely essential. If there are other non-key workers in the family home, it is the expectation that children would not be in school.**

Should you wish to take up this provision, please contact us urgently at OBHS by email using the email address office@obhs.co.uk Please note too that this provision must not be used as a 'drop-in service'. We will always be flexible and supportive, but I am sure you will appreciate that we need to manage provision very carefully. The school will be open during normal school opening times.



We request that you provide formal identification of your key worker role and confirmation from you that you have checked with your employer that your role is critical to the continuation of the public service. Identification could be in the form of an electronic copy of your current ID badge or similar or a letter from your employer. If this is not possible please contact the school prior to sending your child to school.

To ensure arrangements can be put in place, please can you respond to this letter as soon as possible - preferably before the end of the working day. The school will periodically check the office email account over the weekend. I am afraid that we will not admit students on Monday morning without prior communication that has been responded by the school.

School Transport

Currently and based on information that the school has as of today Norfolk County Council school transport will run according to the current schedule. The Thetford Bus service will continue, however, this will be reviewed within a few days next week, when we have a greater understanding of student numbers. Students travelling to school by bus will be picked up and dropped off at their normal bus stop at the scheduled time.

Concluding Points

As noted above, shortly we will be in touch regarding a range of other important pieces of information. We are especially mindful of those families that are entitled to Free School Meals support and arrangements are being put in place to help such families.

While Old Buckenham High School will be closed to the majority of pupils as detailed above, we are in no way closed in terms of our ongoing care, support and kindness.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Fell
Headteacher

