

RP/tb – 5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I have no doubt you will have seen by now the announcement from the Prime Minister that schools will now be closed until at least February half term, action taken in response to rising coronavirus infection rates and hospital admissions.

Whilst we support this decision and wish to take every possible step to keep our school community safe, it does come as a huge blow to our plans for the new term and raises concerns about the impact on students facing yet more time out of the classroom. Please rest assured we will do everything possible to make sure students continue to receive high quality teaching and learning, albeit remotely.

As per our previous communications, all students will be set remote learning activities via Microsoft Teams, with live elements to this delivery. Students will have their activities for the lesson explained to them and have live access to a teacher to support their learning. In addition, each week you should receive a call from the school to check-in on students' progress and discuss any issues they may be facing.

During this period of partial school closure, the school will remain open to the children of critical workers and to those children classed as vulnerable. This provision started today and will see students accessing their full curriculum. Given that school staff are delivering this provision, as well as remote learning, there are limits to the number of students we are able to accommodate, hence waiting lists may be required.

GCSE and A Level Students

In his statement, the Prime Minister acknowledged that the closure of schools means it will not be "possible or fair" for all exams to go ahead as planned this summer. Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, is to consult with Ofqual on which exams can go ahead under what conditions and how qualifications can be awarded. At this stage we have no idea what this may look like, but it is crucial that students in Year 11 and 13 continue to fully access their studies and prepare as if exams were to go ahead as normal. It is highly likely they will still undertake some form of assessment in the summer term.

Students in Year 11 and 13 were planned to sit mock examinations during the period of school closures. These examinations are now cancelled. As we find out more information regarding how students will be formally assessed this year, we will put in place new arrangements to support their preparations for this. This may well be a new round of mock examinations.

Any formal GCSE, A level or equivalent examinations planned for January will go ahead as planned. Students sitting these examinations will receive a separate communication regarding arrangements for the day.

I fully appreciate the challenges of remote learning for students and for you of parents of home schooling, alongside your own work commitments. This is a challenge faced by many of our staff and like you, we will do everything possible to ensure students get the best possible experience.

Yours faithfully
The Long Eaton School

R Peel

Mr R Peel
Headteacher