

Sponne School

A Music & Science Academy



Inspiring
Achievement

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Closure due to Coronavirus

I am sure that you are all aware of the Government announcements last night regarding schools in England. The two key points were as follows:

- All schools to close this Friday (20th March) until further notice. This applies to all students except the children of key workers and the most vulnerable children.
- Exams will not take place as planned in May and June.

At Sponne we have made provision for students to continue to work remotely using resources set on Google Classroom by their teachers, so they can continue working from home. We will be expecting students to follow their normal school timetable during the closure weeks before and after Easter until the school reopens. Teachers will be available to provide guidance to students by email or the Google classroom.

I am very conscious that our Year 11 and 13 students, in particular, will have significant questions about their exams and my message to them is to continue to prepare for them to take place at some point as they have not been cancelled. I do not think that the Government, at this point, knows when this pandemic will end but they are certainly expecting it to be at least 12 weeks in length. It is possible that they will look to hold exams after this time later in the summer or at the start of the next academic year. We will, of course, do all that we can to ensure that the Government keeps its promise about ensuring that no young people are disadvantaged by these unprecedented circumstances.

I have no further information regarding which professions fall within the category of 'key workers' or who they will identify as the most vulnerable children. However, we will look to work with the Primary schools in and around Towcester to ensure that there is provision in place. Certainly if you are an NHS employee and need this support please do let me know.

Can I remind you that the symptoms of coronavirus are usually very mild for young people but that they can be carriers and pass on the infection to others. This is a risk factor for elderly people and those who have underlying health issues. Please be mindful of this when visiting extended family or arranging activities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any other queries about this.

Yours sincerely

Iain Massey
Headteacher

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