

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to write to me and to colleagues at this most difficult time for us all. It has been great to be able to share your kind words with colleagues. Friday was an unanticipated day of mixed emotions, but mostly of sadness, as we bade farewell to Year 11 and 13 students who left without knowing how their GCSEs and A Levels would be awarded. Out of adversity however, has come a particularly strong sense of the High School community and a keenness of staff to do everything they can to support all our young people, however remotely, over coming weeks.

The information below is provided to help you navigate arrangements for critical workers children, understand the support for families whose children qualify for Free School Meals and find details of the government's preliminary announcement regarding GCSE and A level accreditation.

I would like to remind you that school will be closed to almost all children from Monday 23 March until further notice. While we regret that this is the situation, we have to follow the latest government advice.

Children permitted in school

We do not expect to see your children on Monday unless you have told us to anticipate their attendance and because you, or they, meet the following criteria:

- Any parent or carer in your household is a critical worker and you won't be able to care for your child or children at home.
 - It's up to you to decide as a family whether your child comes into school in this instance. We will support them in school if you need us to, but please be mindful of the government advice that you should only be sending your child in if it is absolutely necessary
- They have a child protection plan
- They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)
- They need other specialist support – we will have contacted you already if this is the case

Further detail can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If your child falls into one of the categories above and you haven't already told us, please let us know immediately by emailing enquiries@kshs.uk . If we are not expecting to see your child on Monday morning, we will need to send them home. Similarly, if your child has been self-isolating or has been sent home due to displaying symptoms they should not be coming into school until after the requisite time has passed, which is 14 days since the time the self-isolation started.

Students in school

To reiterate what I wrote on Friday, a skeleton staff at KSHS will provide supervision for children of Critical Workers from Monday 23 March. All staff will be teachers or support staff employed by the Robert Carre Trust and as such are DBS checked and familiar with Trust procedures and processes. For the first few days senior staff will lead on this supervision along with colleagues.

The supervision operates from 9am–3.40pm. Students arriving at school should sign in at reception as soon as they arrive and go directly to the Dining Room. During the day they will be able to access school computers in order to work on the assignments their peers will access online from home. We hope to provide some more recreational activities in the afternoon where possible.

Students do not need to wear school uniform but should wear comfortable clothes and bring with them sportswear so that they can take part in indoor or outdoor sports activities each day. Some of these activities may take place in coming weeks at the Carre's Grammar School site. Students should also bring with them food and snacks for the day. Water fountains are available so they should bring a refillable bottle.

From Tuesday we will be able to offer food in the Dining Room, albeit with a more limited menu than the extensive one that is usually on offer. This can be purchased in the usual way using ParentPay, so please make sure that there are sufficient funds in your child's account. It would be helpful for the Catering staff to know if you intend to use this facility. It may be that you do not wish to take up this provision or that you need your child to access this provision intermittently and that is fine. We simply ask every parent receiving this letter to confirm with us your requirements via enquiries@kshs.uk . Please remember to include your child's name and form.

Students who receive free school meals

If your child receives free school meals but isn't eligible to attend school from Monday, we can help make alternative provision for you. Details have been sent to the students who are in this position and if you feel that you qualify for this, please let us know.

GCSEs and A Levels

New details regarding the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on summer exams has been released. The exam regulator, Ofqual, and exam boards will work with teachers to provide grades to students whose exams have been cancelled this summer. Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing specific arrangements with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. The details released so far can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

More information will be provided as soon as possible, and when we know we will pass it onto you. We appreciate you and your daughter will be keen to know specific details about likely grades. Until we have had a chance to understand the detail from Ofqual and plan for the regulations for this year that won't be possible. Please do not place staff under pressure to provide speculative information at this point.

I know this is a difficult time for many of you, and the next few weeks will be an adjustment for all of us. We are doing everything we can to support your children and families and appreciate your patience and support. Please do help us by following the advice that is issued by Public Health England and the government. You may find a factsheet *School Closure - Facts for Parents* on the school website useful. Find it via the parents' link on our websites home page banner.

Remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Many thanks for your continued support and all the best to you and your families.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs J Smith
Head of School