



20th March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you may now be aware, the government has taken the decision to close all schools within England. Please see the government guidance below:

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.*
- 2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.*
- 3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.*
- 4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.*
- 5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.*

It is important to follow the guidance above and we reiterate that if it is possible for a child to be at home, then they should be. For those children who will no longer attend school until further notice we have taken the following measures:

eLearning support – Year 7 - Year 10

Students will be able to access a wide range of materials via the school's website. These materials have been planned by their teachers and are age-appropriate and designed to support their progress whilst school remains closed.

Please ensure that you encourage and expect your child to complete these activities. These will enable your son/daughter to continue learning even in these unusual circumstances.

eLearning support – Year 11

There remains uncertainty around how qualifications will be awarded for Year 11 and Year 13 students. For this reason, I strongly recommend that students continue to study from home until such time that we are made aware of government decisions regarding how qualifications will be awarded. In addition, it is advisable that students continue their established study habits in order to prepare them for their next steps in education. Students should be proud of the hard work they have put in over the past 2 years and should know that learning how to learn is a skill that will set them up well for life.

Year 11 students have been given access and login details to Moodle, an online resource platform. Teaching staff will be providing work on this platform during the school closure.

Year 11 and Year 13 students have also been provided with their school email login information. Staff will use this to keep in contact with students so please ask them to check this regularly.

Please be assured that school will be in contact to support students in securing and transitioning to their next steps in further, higher education or employment.

Regular Contact

We will, where staffing levels allow, be maintaining regular contact with you and your child throughout the closure.

Your child's coach will endeavour to be in touch throughout the school's closure to support the management of this unprecedented time for our school community. Additionally, our safeguarding and inclusion teams will be available to offer additional support should it be required.

If you have any safeguarding concerns while school is closed please contact the safeguarding team on whs-safeguarding@wetherbyhigh.co.uk.

Food Support

We appreciate what a complex situation this is for many families and know that some children will be used to receiving a regular meal as part of the school's free school meals programme. We will be offering meals for children eligible for a free school meal at lunchtime between 11.30am and 12.30pm. This is dependent on the current systems of supply of produce being maintained however, whilst ever we are able to source food, we will endeavour to ensure that no child goes hungry throughout the day.

Communication and updates

There may be periods of time when we are unable to take telephone calls on the usual number therefore if you have any questions or queries, please email the school at info@wetherbyhigh.co.uk and we will aim to get back to you as promptly as possible.

We will issue all key updates and information via our website and also text all families to highlight that there has been an update placed on the website.

For children of key workers and vulnerable students

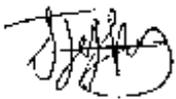
There will be a school provision as directed for any child who is the son/daughter of a key worker and for whom it is not possible for them to be cared for at home. The school day will be from 9.00am and finish at 2.30pm. Currently, a school bus service will be running. Students should attend in full school uniform.

What can you do to help?

We need you to let school know as soon as possible if you know that your child will need to access the adapted provision available from Monday. Please only use this option if it is not possible to care for your child at home due to you being a key worker. The government have been clear that we should, as a school and a community, be endeavouring to reduce the number of people attending school. You should email info@wetherbyhigh.co.uk with your child's full name and year group, stating what category of employment qualifies you as a key worker and provide your employers' address and telephone number.

We appreciate that these are new and difficult times and we will continue to work with all our families to support them to navigate the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Samantha Jefferson

Head of School