

11 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, the advice from Public Health England has been very clear that schools should stay open and this would continue to be the case during the “containment phase” of Covid-19 (Coronavirus). On Monday, the government met to discuss whether the country should move to the “delay phase” and, with this, the possibility of enforced school closure.

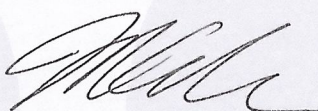
This letter is sent not to further alarm or heighten anxiety regarding the situation, but to provide reassurance that the academy is preparing for this situation. It is the intention of the academy to stay open for staff, if permitted by Public Health England, and to provide lessons electronically to students. The academy has created its own YouTube channel and we plan to upload English, maths and science lessons to Year 7-11 on a daily basis. Non-core subjects will upload work through SAM Learning, Doodle and Show my Homework, work will also be emailed to students using their Knole Academy email accounts. In the Sixth Form, as well as work set via email, we hope to host Skype seminars. We are confident that with parental support we will be able to minimise the impact. I appreciate that the potential timing of this is particularly stressful for students taking exams, but I would like to reassure you and them, that their mock exams have demonstrated, that as a cohort, they are in a very good place at present and as the closure is likely to affect all schools, they will not be disadvantaged when grades are awarded.

We have several educational visits planned at present, none of which are scheduled to visit high risk areas. Unless we are advised by the Foreign Office or the airlines/venue that the risk for these visits has altered the insurance company will not reimburse the costs. We will review the status of all trips regularly and inform you of any changes immediately.

At this time, I would like you to ensure that your son/daughter has log in details for their email account, Doodle, SAM Learning and Show my Homework. If they do not have these details, they should see Mrs Dykes for Doodle, SAM and Show my Homework and the IT technicians for their email account. In addition, if students in Year 11, 12 and 13 do not have computer access or internet at home, they should let Mr Turner (Sixth Form) or Mr Lloyd (Year 11) know and the academy will endeavour to support them in this matter.

Further details regarding how to access the electronic resources will be sent if the school is forced to close. We hope we do not have to implement these plans and wish all families good health over the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,



David Collins
Headteacher