

Thursday March 19th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

School Closure

As you will by now be aware the Government has announced the closure of all schools from the afternoon of Friday March 20th. This is for an indefinite period and I am very aware that this raises a lot of concerns for you as parents and carers as well as for your children.

We will continue to provide work for students each day on Show My Homework and I would ask you to ensure that your sons and daughters are keeping up with their learning as well as having time for exercise. After updating our information on who has internet access and computer at home, staff have been busy preparing work packs for those students who do not and these will be distributed in school before students leave on Friday. They have already been given to students in Years 8 and 9.

Staff will be available to answer student questions regarding work and we have some new email addresses for students to send their questions to which are at the bottom of this letter. I hope you will understand that staff will not just be on the end of a computer all day though to provide instant responses – some will be looking after their own children, some may be ill and some will still be working in school on other duties.

Our Year 11 have been a credit this year and I am bitterly disappointed for them and the staff who have worked so hard with them to prepare for exams. Every indication we have is that they would have achieved great results and it is important to reassure them that they will not be disadvantaged in their future lives even though we do not yet know how qualifications will be awarded. The Secretary of State for Education has said this evening that: 'We can confirm that we will not go ahead with assessments or exams, and that we will not be publishing performance tables for this academic year. We will work with the sector and Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications they need. My Department is working closely with local authorities, representatives of early years, schools and head teachers, regional school commissioners and bodies such as Ofsted and Ofqual about how to deliver this change as effectively as possible.' We do not yet know how qualifications will be awarded but teacher predictions may well play and so I would encourage Year 11 to continue studying in some way, to finish coursework off wherever possible and to keep their brains active. As I told them this morning they have not just been learning to pass exams but to be educated young people and so nothing has gone to waste. As a school we will look at how we can celebrate with Year 11 at some point in the future. Tomorrow we will have breakfast with them.

Key workers and most vulnerable

The Government has announced that schools need to remain open only for the children of certain key groups in society - examples of these workers include NHS staff, teachers, police and delivery drivers who

need to be able to go to work. **If your son or daughter falls into one of these categories and you will need them to be in school could you please let me know by Friday March 20th at 9am so that we can plan staffing, catering and transport as necessary. Please provide the name and address of your employer if you are in a key worker.**

Vulnerable children including those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans are expected to be in school. A key member of staff will be allocated to those students who are most vulnerable so that contact can be maintained during this closure period.

Pastoral leaders will also still be able to be contacted and if there are safeguarding issues which come to your attention please do contact Mr Johnstone or myself.

Where children are in school they will have access to computers to continue learning set by teachers and we will provide opportunities for exercise. They will not be taught in the normal way as we will only have skeleton staff in school.

Free School Meals

Measures will be put in place to provide emergency food parcels for families who are eligible to pupil premium. We will send these out as soon as we have them directly to those families.

Please bear with us as we plan and work out the ramifications of these momentous national decisions. The most important thing has to be everyone's health and wellbeing and we will play our part, as a community school, in supporting our students and families.

With best wishes in these difficult times

Andrew Waller

Subject contact emails during closure

English	englishclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
Maths	mathsclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
Science	scienceclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
French/Spanish	mflclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
History	historyclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
Geography	geographyclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
RS	rsclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
Technology, Engineering, Design	technologyclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
Business, Computing, Imedia	ictclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
PE, BTEC Sport, Health & Social	peclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
Performing Arts, Dance, Music	performingartsclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk
Art & Photography	artclosure@carrhill.lancs.sch.uk