



## **GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

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19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you again for your enduring support and really kind messages.

The Education Secretary and Prime Minister have, as you are no doubt aware, announced that schools will be closed to students for the foreseeable future after tomorrow, Friday. It was also announced, that exams will not take place. This announcement will cause many of your concerns, some of which I hope are addressed below, but information regarding exam 'results' I will pass on as soon as I have any further information. My understanding for now is that there will still be a results day in August and that results will be based on the school's evidenced predictions.

With staff numbers still dwindling, I need to reduce numbers further tomorrow, and, as year 7 are still the most socially vulnerable and there is no longer the requirement to be as demanding of year 11, the school will only be open to year 7 students tomorrow with the exception of others detailed below. Year 11 have been given time and space to be with staff and sign shirts this afternoon. We will still order leavers hoodies and find a way of distributing these in coming weeks.

As we have done with years 8 to 10, work will be set for years 7 and 11 via the Show My Homework platform. You will, I'm sure want to ensure that children aren't in the local community during core school hours and, to make this planning easier, students should generally aim to do work for particular subjects at the timings indicated on their normal timetable. Mrs Rawcliffe has sent out an information/help sheet for years 8 to 10, and will later send one to parents of students from years 7 and 11, which contain loads of clear information about how to help your child to work at home.

It is my intention to continue to provide, as we have been doing, a supervised learning area and food, for students on Free School Meals as well as children whose parents/carers work for the NHS in any capacity. This offer will now be extended to children who are on EHCP plans, children who are vulnerable and have a Social Worker, and children of police officers, fire services and of key delivery drivers. Please let us know as soon as possible of your intention to access this provision. We are aiming to maintain bus services as far as possible. Children attending on this basis must continue to sign in and out at reception tomorrow, and then from Monday on a daily basis in the small Fairsnape canteen.

If children have an urgent Safeguarding or Child Protection problem, they should, as always, follow the 'Keep Me Safe' link on the school website or contact appropriate authorities.

I will continue to keep you informed of any changes and updates as and when I can, and will aim to send a short briefing to touch base with you twice a week from Monday.

These are unprecedented times with unprecedented measures being taken to keep society as safe as possible. I thank you for your support and wish you and your families all the very best over the coming weeks and months.

Very best wishes

Alasdair Ashcroft  
Headteacher