

20th March 2020

Dear Families,

We would like to start by thanking all of you for the fantastic support over recent days during what is an unprecedented time for us all. Your understanding and kind words have made such a difference to the school. Equally, the way our learners have responded during what has been a most difficult and uncertain couple of weeks has been superb, and we are exceptionally proud of all of them. Following the government announcement we, like all schools across the country, will be closing at the end of the school day on Friday 20 March 2020 for an indefinite period. We are in the process of making arrangements for the learners who have been identified as needing to continue to attend during the general closure, these families will be contacted with details of those arrangements in due course. The first principle from the Department for Education guidance states "If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be." For those children who are not attending the school site during the closure, learning will continue but at their homes.

School staff have been working hard to set work for learners to complete; all learners should check both their email accounts and Insight to access the tasks. A 'Home Study' booklet will be sent electronically to all parents and carers containing all the details about home learning for each subject. We are in the process of arranging physical copies of work to be posted to those learners who do not have access to suitable technology; if you need paper copies please get in touch with the school. If any technical problems are experienced by learners our ICT support team may be contacted through the main school number during normal school hours. In the event that any staff member is unavailable to deal with you call we will take your number and make contact with you.

As well as the work that has been set by class teachers, learners should also be encouraged to read widely. A recommended reading list will be included in the 'Home Study' booklet mentioned earlier, this includes a range of genres and is aimed at learners of all reading ages. Learners will benefit most from reading texts if they can talk about what they have read with you and if they carry out some research linked to the texts and their authors. If you are unable to access books right now please do encourage any other reading you consider suitable.

Many parents and carers have told us that they have planned a clear routine at home that allows for school work to be completed each day with break times incorporated, some parents are planning to mimic the school day timings to keep disruption to a minimum. Learners should log on and check their emails and INSIGHT account on a daily basis to ensure they keep up to date with all of the work being set by their class teachers. As appropriate, teachers will be making arrangements for ongoing feedback to be provided to them as well.

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# Longdendale

H I G H S C H O O L

During the period of closure, school staff will still be in attendance at the school and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will also be on site each day during normal school hours. A member of staff from the school's safeguarding team will also be on site each day. Should you have any concerns of a safeguarding nature you should call the main school telephone number and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding duty team. In line with government guidance we are asking all who do not need to be physically present at school to not attend and should you wish to make contact with us please use the phone or email.

Unfortunately, the government has not yet made any provision for us to support learners who receive a free school meal. We are determined that they will not be disadvantaged by this very difficult situation and we want to ensure that they continue to be fed. While we wait for clarification, the school will provide lunches for these learners and they will be available to collect from reception between 12:00pm and 12:30pm each school day. In order to reduce food wastage, please make contact with the school to confirm that you will be taking this option.

The Government have explained that GCSE exams will not be sat in May and June, it is worth noting that there is still a chance that exams may take place at some point. Several potential resolutions have been suggested to remedy this but, at this stage, it would be prudent for learners in year 11 to continue with their studies until such time as this matter is clarified, and equally will prepare for their future studies. We will be in touch as soon as any guidance is released to the school.

This situation has created a great deal of uncertainty but please be assured that Longdendale are and will continue to do all we can to support our community through these challenging times. As the situation changes we will continue to communicate with you – please check the school website regularly as we will keep this updated with information as it becomes available. We are closely following the Government's guidance to play our role in responding to this challenging situation, and if you need us we are here.

In the meantime and on behalf of all of the staff at Longdendale, we send you and your family our very best wishes at this difficult time, and hope that you all remain safe and well. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you as we navigate our way through the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact us through the main school office if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Jones  
**Headteacher**

Yours sincerely,

Sally Ayre  
**Deputy Headteacher**

Yours sincerely,

Chris Major  
**Deputy Headteacher**

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