

**Update 10.00am 17/03/20**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The government released more information about this next phase of the Covid19 virus. As the picture is becoming increasingly difficult to manage, I am hoping to summarise some key points here and ask people for support where possible.

#### **Facts as we know them**

Guidelines for self isolation have been increased significantly. This will impact staff and student attendance as people follow these expectations.

As the period and nature of isolation has been intensified, it is not unreasonable to expect large numbers to be impacted, in order to keep themselves and others safe.

The government is asking schools to remain open for as long as possible despite the increase in social distancing measures. **However, we cannot operate if the school is deemed unsafe based on staffing numbers. Information will be communicated through:**

- **MyEd/Text**
- **School website** [www.lythamhigh.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.lythamhigh.lancs.sch.uk)
- **Email**
- **Communication on social media will direct people back to school website to avoid confusion and the possibility of incorrect information.**

Schools clearly play a key role in keeping children safe whilst parents in the caring services are at work. However, they cannot operate if they cannot safeguard children. In order to help with this, please could I ask parents to fill in the attached survey

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1pXB2bCXKotpHl6kymO9Pbo71bPWKRL7bSqELBq1GkR47qA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1pXB2bCXKotpHl6kymO9Pbo71bPWKRL7bSqELBq1GkR47qA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

This is so that we can assess any likelihood of providing a level of service during this time. Again, this is not policy and is uncharted territory but we want to be in a position to support if possible.

#### **School Closures**

We are preparing for the school to close at some point, but we do not know when. Any closure before a government direction is likely to be only partial.

Each morning, we will assess the number of children in school and the number of staff available. If there are challenges, **we will try to manage these during the course of the day, but will contact parents via text/MyEd about any arrangements. This may include sending students in a particular year group home.**

**Where this is the case students will be required to return home and not visit the school site during the day.**

**Today (17/3/20) we have made the decision to partially close the school to years 9 and 10. This is part of our risk assessment, based on the number of staff isolating and the least possible impact on the community. This is likely to stay in place until the end of school on Friday 20th March. Any changes will be communicated to parents.**

#### **Information**

We are being guided by the government announcements, which are taking place after school has closed, but before people have identified symptoms. We require staff to let the school know of any absence before 7:30am. Decisions are then made and communicated as quickly as we can. The latest will always be updated via our website and MyEd.

#### **Distance Learning**

As part of our planning, we have ensured that all students have access to a learning platform called **Show My Homework (SMHW)**. Students are all familiar with the platform. However, as these are unprecedented times, we have put together some ideas and expectations to help families. We cannot aim to replicate lessons online and know that we cannot replicate the same high quality we see in our teachers on a **daily** basis, but **there will be opportunities for students to learn, develop and progress.**

#### **Approach to Distance Learning at LSA**

At this moment, we cannot set individual work for students self isolating. However, as the situation moves on and greater numbers are not in school, distance learning tasks will be posted on SMHW.

It is important that we manage expectations for everyone during these difficult times.

### Key points for distance learning

- We are well set up for communication through SMHW. Even though we have email through Office 365, for safeguarding purposes, messaging between staff and students will need to be through the SMHW platform.
- Each department will take responsibility for setting tasks and will do so in line with the availability of staff and time. We accept there may be some inconsistencies due to staff illness and caring responsibilities.
- Year 11 teachers will take responsibility for their classes and overseeing activities on a group basis.
- Staff will endeavour to respond to messages and offer feedback in a timely manner, but cannot offer a formal time scale. Year 11 will be prioritised in the first instance.
- All other years (7 to 10) will have extended tasks set which will be a mixture of presentation, testing, activity etc.
- The main focus will be on EMBEDDING learning, so as to avoid any new, key topics being learnt incorrectly. This means that lots of tasks will involve revisiting previous learning. This has been proven to be a highly successful strategy for students learning.
- It is important to note that we will not be providing lessons via Skype or similar video technology at this stage. If this changes, then we will communicate with home.
- Where work is completed, we would encourage parents to support their children with reading and spelling activities. We are looking at potential ways of making books accessible during this time.

For some students, their homepage in SMHW will have large numbers of tasks and activities and may cause some anxiety. We do not expect the tasks to replicate the standard 5 x one hour blocks of learning a day, and there will be negotiation within each home about how these are tackled. Therefore, we would suggest that students aim to complete work each day based on the following, suggested timetable:

	Y9, Y10 & Y11 Week A	Y9, Y10 & Y11 Week B	Y7 & Y8 Week A	Y7 & Y8 Week B
<b>Monday</b>	English	Maths	History, Geog.	Science
<b>Tuesday</b>	Option A	Option C	Maths	English
<b>Wednesday</b>	Maths	Science	English	Music, Art , Drama, PE
<b>Thursday</b>	Option B	Option D	Science	Tech, Computing
<b>Friday</b>	Science	English	MFL, RS	Maths

#### Message from the Chair of Governors

These are difficult times and the school recognises the wider role it plays in the community. We have a duty of care to all staff and students and are trying to give as much information as possible, where needed. As the Governing Body, we have been involved in the planning for this situation and know that the school has plans in place for any time that may be missed through school closure.

Although these are worrying times, the quality of learning over the first part of this term will ensure our children are not impacted adversely. We have proven many times before, that a period of forced absence can be recovered and when the world returns to normal, children at LSA will thrive and succeed. I can assure you that people are working hard to make the right decisions.

I think it is important that we give this message to children during a time of such uncertainty and worry. I would also like to thank staff, students and wider families for their support and hard work.

I will endeavour to get information out and keep people informed as regularly as possible over the coming days.

Many thanks again,



Ray Baker  
Headteacher