

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

**Lytham St Annes High School will be closed from 3:30pm on Friday 20th March**

You will be aware of the announcement from the Prime Minister on Wednesday, that schools have been directed to close and will therefore not be open on Monday until further notice. As we continue to see, these are unprecedented times and require difficult decisions. Children in year 9 and 10 have already been impacted this week and I would like to thank parents of these year groups for your support.

In order to best support the local community, we have been making plans to offer a level of support for families that may be deemed as "key workers" and would be unable to work with their children at home. We want to offer the best possible support, but need to do so in a way that is safe, workable and effective.

In order to offer some provision over the next few weeks, we need to prioritise those who require the service so that we can plan meaningful activities. At such short notice, there is clearly a lot to do and we will try to make sure that people are kept informed. There will also be many issues with our responsibility to support home working and self isolation as well as many staff who also have caring responsibilities. We surveyed parents this week, which has allowed us to get an idea of numbers and I am grateful to those who completed it. As we will now be directed from the Government about our role, we will follow these steps:

- 1 Wait for confirmation from the government of what roles are defined as key workers
- 2 Send a form to all parents asking them to declare their needs
- 3 Send home details of times, areas and format for those needing LSA to operate
- 4 Review numbers of staff and children
- 5 Consider a wider offer to parents

*We are acutely aware that there will be many families who will encounter significant difficulties in continuing employment with a school closure. Even though we will be limited to the children of key workers in the first instance, there may be opportunities to expand our offer. However, we will not be able to do this immediately and we will use the information gathered in our previous survey to identify families. Therefore, school will remain closed to those not involved in the above.*

**We have already shared the expectations of how online learning will work for all students. This will be delivered through Show My Homework in most cases. Where this isn't possible we will endeavour to provide paper copies. We are realistic enough to realise that this is not easy nor ideal. We also realise that there will have to be negotiation in each household about how and when work is carried out. Parents will have to judge what is reasonable in your context.**

We also need to encourage reading at regular intervals and will text families soon with our online library of children's books. This is an excellent resource. With so much online learning and reading material, it is important to take the government advice about exercising. Again, finding positives in such strange times, if we all return to school having read more, revised the areas we have learned in school, developed an interest in new areas and have maintained our fitness, then we know the time will have been well used.

Before we close temporarily, I want to take the opportunity to thank parents for their support and understanding during such unprecedented times. Over the last few days, we have managed to run a partially closed school, with a skeleton staff, ensuring that the school has been available for over 900 students. The children have been brilliant. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Ray Baker  
Headteacher