



UPDATE TO PARENTS AND CARERS: WEDS 18TH MARCH 2020

1) Arrangements for the rest of this week: Noadswood will remain open for Years 7, 8 and 11 on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th of this week:

As throughout the week, please email health@noadswood.hants.sch.uk if your child/any member of your household presents with any of the symptoms that could be of the virus and don't send your child in/approach school as a visitor or a colleague – see this week's previous memos for the descriptions of these symptoms.

Please also email this address if, for any other reason, your child needs to remain at home as part of the Government guidance around social distancing or you just need to talk to us about anything with respect to the virus and your family.

If your child won't be in for any other reason, please email attendance@noadswood.hants.sch.uk in the usual way.

Work for all pupils at home is available via the Frog portal as you know.

We would be so grateful for you avoiding making phone calls into the school, as you, like us, do your best to assimilate the impact for your children and your families of tonight's Government announcement. This is so we can have the planning time we need to get you the clarity you and your children deserve following the announcement – discussed below:

2) Tonight's Government announcement stated two crucial messages to us:

a) Schools in the UK will close to the vast majority of pupils from Friday 20th March until further notice as the next stage in the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Schools will close other than for looking after the children of keyworkers (detail to follow) and the most vulnerable children (detail to be provided by Government)

This is such a fast-developing situation, isn't it, that requires Noadswood and other local schools to think fast about the logistics for looking after keyworker children and vulnerable children in our community.

The senior team and I are working on this as I write, and so we would welcome your completion of the quick survey linked to this message to assist us in our planning.

There will be detailed information sent to you on Thursday 19th March when we have had an opportunity to plan appropriate actions together and liaise with our staff team in response to this news we all received together, as a community a short time ago.

b) Exams in May and June will not take place but the Government will work with Ofqual and schools to ensure the young people concerned will gain the qualifications they need in time.

We understand how incredibly destabilizing and worrying this is for all of our Y11 students and for you, as parents and carers, and I've got to say, we feel the same, even though we understand the reasons for the measures as explained by the Chief Scientific Officer as well as the Prime Minister. Our hearts go out to you all.

We'd say directly to the young people, keep working through the revision and the completion of the work your teachers and you have been wading through together so brilliantly – even today we had Y11s all over our school, staying behind for catch up and clinics. We're so proud of you, and we know that, for good mental health, there's a real value to you completing the courses, and feeling that true, lovely sense of achievement that completion brings. It also prepares you for the possibility of exams coming on stream at a later point, about which none of us yet know – we will share every single piece of information we hear as soon as we hear it.

As you know, we have Art exams running tomorrow and Friday, and, in exactly that spirit, we are continuing with these so that our talented artists complete their course and we gain this important and accurate capture of how they are performing in their Art.

We will be back in touch with lots more detail tomorrow, and in the meantime, we send our ongoing deepest thanks for your continued support, and for your amazing resilience at such an unprecedented time of challenge for all in our communities.

We are in this together, with you,

The Noadswood Leadership Team