

19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, following the announcements from the Education Secretary and Prime Minister last evening, the school will be closing from 2.30pm this coming Friday 20th March until further notice.

As detailed in the announcement, the Government are hoping schools will remain open to children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. At the time of writing, there is very limited information available to school leaders as to how this might work, but please be assured that we are reviewing all guidance as soon as practically possible and will update you further on this. As you will appreciate, many of the children we have at Meadowbrook College would fall under the vulnerable children category however, this does not mean that they will all remain in school on Monday.

In the first instance, we need to establish which of our parents/carers fall under the 'keyworker' category - currently defined by the Government as NHS staff, Police and Supermarket delivery drivers/workers. I would also add to this list teachers - you may be in the same position as us having to support vulnerable children and those of other keyworkers in school. You will be contacted today to find out if you are in this category. If you are a keyworker please let us know if you would like support from us by having your child in school with us.

The school holds records for those children classed as vulnerable, or with EHCPs, and those parents and carers will be contacted separately to establish whether it is suitable for your child to be in school going forwards. We are however still awaiting clarification on this.

The Government has also announced that all secondary and primary exams will not go ahead this summer. I know that this will be causing a great deal of anxiety among our young people in year 11 to 13. We are again waiting to review further guidance in this area from the Government and Ofqual and will update you as soon as we can. Please be assured that we will assist in any way we can to support the transition of our students from Year 11 into their next destination - College/Employment/Training - but we will provide further clarification on this in due course.

Government have advised that children currently in receipt of Free School Meals will be assisted by way of schools being able to purchase meals or vouchers for supermarkets or local shops. We will let you know how this will work in due course but want to let you know we are committed to supporting our eligible families and will contact you personally to update you on this soon.

We have provided all students (or will in the next few days for those students still in school) with work packs and/or instructions for how to work at home online. We will keep this updated and students/parents will be able to access additional 'work', should you require it and I will clarify how you can do this in a future correspondence.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this extraordinary time. I am sure you will appreciate we are trying to navigate our way through this fast moving situation as best we can and are very

aware of the anxiety this is causing for you too. Please do not hesitate to talk to us if you would like our help with anything or require greater clarity - a problem shared....!

I will be in further contact with you when we have the updates mentioned but wanted to let you know where we are today.

Kind regards

Nicola Partridge
Headteacher