



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 Update and Protocol for Teaching & Learning during school closure

I am writing to update you on the current situation concerning the coronavirus and the forthcoming school closure from tomorrow for the majority of students.

Firstly, thank you for the incredible support we have received as a school. We have had multiple parents/carers contact the school to see if they can help in any way, including volunteering should our staffing levels be insufficient to open the school to all years.

Attached is the Teaching and Learning Protocol while the school is closed. It outlines the expectations of all staff, students and parents/carers and I would ask for your full support in ensuring that all students continue to make progress in the coming weeks and months.

Please remember that school will only be open for our most vulnerable students and the children of families who work in front line NHS services or are employed in care services working with vulnerable adults or children. We are still awaiting a definitive list from the Government about who is covered in this category. In the meantime, if you believe you are, and have not already signed up, please do so by 8am tomorrow morning, to allow us to plan accordingly <https://forms.gle/oZrdzGnpR894BBQJ9>

Some students and/or families have requested for their children to attend school. Although, this is a positive sentiment, only those in the above categories will be allowed to attend school and this will be communicated with the relevant parent/carers tomorrow.

Today, I received confirmation that Innovate, who provide our school meals, will continue to operate while the school remains partially open. Parents/carers of children who normally receive free school meals, and are not attending school, will receive an e-voucher for a major supermarket each week to help towards these meals.

We are also in the process of ensuring that all students have access to a computer device.

This morning I met with all Year 11 students following yesterday's announcement that GCSE exams will not take place in May and June. I cannot describe the maturity and compassion they demonstrated, despite being clearly upset and in shock. They understandably feel cheated after working so hard but also recognise that they too need to play their part in preventing the spread of this disease. We are still awaiting the details of how the Government will award grades and it is essential that they continue to work hard in the coming weeks and months.

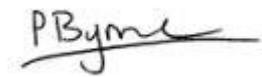


It is becoming increasingly possible, depending on how long the school remains closed for, that tomorrow will be Year 11's last day at Chatsmore as a year group. To mark this we will be having a Leavers' Service during lesson 6, in which we will celebrate their time here and pray for them in the coming months. Please can I ask for your prayers for all of our students but especially for our Year 11s. Currently the Prom is still booked for 8th July, however, should this be cancelled we will endeavour to organise this for a later date.

Finally, a reminder that tomorrow is a Mufti Day in which parents/carers are being asked to bring in a food item for our most vulnerable families in our school and local community. Several parents/carers have also asked if they can make a donation in this time of need. If you would like to do this, however small it may be, please send this in with your son/daughter tomorrow.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Byrne', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Byrne