

19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

At 5.15pm yesterday afternoon, the Secretary of State for Education gave a public statement that all state-funded schools in England would be closed from the end of the school day on Friday. He also indicated that all the GCSE, AS and A-level examinations due to take place this Summer have been suspended and that students would be credited for their learning in some other way.

I am sure you, like me, will have very mixed feelings about this and I would like to reassure you that the College will be doing all it can to provide support during this very difficult time.

Having indicated that all schools would be closed, the Secretary of State for Education then indicated that they would be expected to remain open for the children of key workers and for those in various vulnerable categories – providing a safe place and access to meals. We are expecting a definition of ‘key worker’ at some point today from the Cabinet Office, but to try and move things forward I have sent out a letter this morning via the College’s website, Facebook page, Show my Homework and ParentPay asking you to provide us with information if you are a ‘key worker’ and if you require the College to provide your child or children supervision and support. It will take time to determine the nature of this provision and further details will be sent out once they have been confirmed (no later than tomorrow).

Although we have been anticipating such an announcement, and prepared for various scenarios, the limited details so far released raise considerably more questions than answers. You will all have your own legitimate concerns and queries.

The Secretary of State gave no undertaking that schools would be expected to sustain a pattern of normal learning during the closure; rather that any available staff would be expected to support other frontline efforts.

I will be working with my senior leadership colleagues throughout today and tomorrow, and all staff, to clarify as best we can what this announcement means for the College, for our students and for you.

Thank you for your support and for your patience in the meantime.

Finally, please note that if you do not wish to send your child to school tomorrow (Friday) I respect your decision and I can assure you it will not be coded as an unauthorised absence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Plumb', written in a cursive style.

Dr Jeremy Plumb
Headteacher