



Our Ref: HeadteacherSA: parental/BRE/JOD
Date: 20th March 2020

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Ruskin Community High School

Dear Parent/Carer

First, thank you again for the messages of support that we have received this week in relation to plans to combat the spread of Corona virus.

The picture has been changing hourly, as you know. I must thank all of my colleagues for their unwavering support and flexibility. Without this, a plan of action could never have been drawn up in time. As it is, we have a plan that is robust.

Rest assured, we are doing all we can to try to offer a response that supports key workers and the most vulnerable students. I know all of the staff would like me to recognise the amazing work that key workers do, particularly those that work within the NHS, the emergency services, military services and those that are supporting efforts to ensure that food and provisions are available during this crisis.

From the end of the day today, **Ruskin will be closed to the majority of students until further notice.** We are following Government guidelines and so re opening is not within our control at all now. Along with you, we will wait to see what the advice is. Therefore, please do not visit school or call in at any point so that we can reduce the risk of infection.

This means that **only children on our identified and agreed register should attend from Monday 23rd March until further notice.** No other child will be allowed to attend. The agreed register has been drawn up in consultation with the local authority and in consultation with parent/carers who have been able to demonstrate that they are 'key workers'. Work has been underway for the last 48 hours on this and it is now complete. We know who we are expecting from Monday 23rd March onwards. If we are expecting your son/daughter, you will have already received a text message from me this morning.

In addition, if we are expecting your son/daughter, please expect a letter to appear on our website later as it gives clear information about how we will operate. It will also be posted to you.

I cannot stress enough how upset our staff are that things have come to this. I am particularly mindful of the intense pressure and disappointment placed on our Year 11 students. To have their chance to sit examinations and do themselves proud stripped away from them so suddenly is completely devastating for them, for parents and for staff. Although we have spoken to them and offered our support, nothing can solve this for them now. Some staff have come forward offering a range of things to, at least, try and show them how important they are. More information will be shared in due course. I am so sorry.

Over the next two weeks, I will keep in touch with you as often as I can. You can contact me by email at any time during this time and I will respond. I do have a mobile number, which many of you have, but I will not share it via this letter as it is going to be posted on our website. I will definitely respond to emails. After that, I shall hand over to Dean Postlethwaite, but I am still working at Ruskin until the end of the Easter holidays and I will be contactable.



None of us could ever have imagined that something like this would happen. It is a very sad end to a term.

I will keep in contact, but I would like to send you my heartfelt thanks for all your support and hard work.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

-E. S. Brett

E S Brett
Headteacher

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