



18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had no update yet regarding school closures but have heard on the news today that an announcement is 'imminent'. For now though, this is where we stand...

So, due to staff shortages, the school will remain closed to Year 8 and 9 for the remainder of the week but open for students in Year 7, 10 and 11 and *any other Year 8 and 9 students whose parents work in healthcare and who need childcare*. They need to report to the main reception and we will take care of them until the end of the school day at 2.50pm. We will put together something for them to do for the day but they will obviously not have 'normal' lessons.

For students who are not at school but who usually have **free school meals**, we will continue to offer a packed lunch for them. Packed lunches can be collected from the main reception from 12noon each day. So that we know how many meals to prepare in advance please contact office@wyvernsteds.org to confirm that you would like lunch made for your child and if they have any dietary requirements. For those in self-isolation or those who cannot get to school but are in need, please contact us and we will see if we can deliver lunch to your doorstep.

The remainder of the week will be **non-school uniform days** in light of the excellent behaviour and mature attitudes that our wonderful students have shown over the last few days. There will be no monetary donation required, but we would ask that, if your family is able to, you donate an item of long-life food each day that we will send to the Trussell Trust to help our community at this time.

Self-isolation – please remember that you should self-isolate in line with the government advice [here](#). Please do not send your child back into school for 14 days. We have had some students attempting to return to school today because they no longer have symptoms: this is prohibited by the government. You must stay away for the full 14 days please, even if you have no symptoms.

If your household is self-isolating, please email the absence team on the first of the 14 days on absence@wyvernsteds.org rather than call us as we are receiving too many calls to answer at the moment.

2) We will continue to provide **work for students** who are not in school at the moment on Show My Homework. Please note that the work provided is enough to keep your child busy for 5 hrs (as is the current legal requirement) but there is no expectation that all children complete all of the work set. That is a decision for you to make in your family.



Please remember to let us know as soon as possible if you would need a paper-based work pack (due to having no internet access) for your child in the event of a full closure (please phone reception if you need this). We need to get this to you in the next few days in case of an enforced school closure announcement from the government as we would not be able to enter the school building once that announcement has been made.

3) If schools remain open next week, the Personal Development Day will not go ahead: it will be 'normal' lessons for students instead. Regarding **trips**, as I mentioned yesterday, refunds will come, but this will take time unfortunately as we wait for insurance refunds. We know this is frustrating and seems rather unfair but there is little we can do as we just don't have the money in the bank to issue refunds until the companies pass it back to us. Please do not try to obtain a refund via the card you paid with as you will be charged a £25 per transaction charge by ParentPay!

4) We are very keen to support our **local business** at this time, particularly businesses owned by Wyvern St Edmund's families. We will produce a brief edition of our Family Bulletin on Friday (even if we are told to close) and would like to offer you **free advertising** for your business. Please send us an image, advert, or just some information about your business and make sure you include details about anything different that your business is doing at this time to support our local community. Please send to aburns@wyvernsteds.org by 9am on Friday 20th March.

If anything changes, we will inform you via text message, through the school web-site and via our social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook). In such times, please check our web-site regularly, especially in the morning and after school as things are evolving quickly now.

Many thanks for you continued support and understanding in such challenging times.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:7

Nicola Bull
Headteacher

Bruce Burley
Senior Deputy Head