

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

School closures and arrangements for the coming weeks

Yesterday afternoon's announcement by the government that schools and colleges would close for most children from the end of tomorrow had been anticipated; we have been preparing for this possibility over the past few days. Each school in Magna Learning Partnership has communicated with you and your son or daughter about the means by which they will continue to learn from home. Our teaching staff are focussed on ensuring that good quality work is provided and they will continue to make that their priority. I am sure that you will appreciate, however that it will not be possible for teachers to mark work or indeed provide feedback to pupils and students in any kind of depth, if at all. As the weeks progress, it will become even more difficult. The important thing, we believe, is that our children and young people remain in the habit of learning. This is true whether you have a reception child who is just taking off with their phonics skills or a son or daughter now preparing to move on to university or the world of work. We appreciate that it is not an easy ask but would urge you to do all you can to encourage your family in their academic and wider learning over the coming weeks and potentially months.

Public Examinations

If you have a child due to sit Key Stage 2 SATS, GCSEs or A levels your school will have told you that you should not worry about the implications of these being cancelled. We expect further detail from the government tomorrow but I am absolutely convinced that no child will be disadvantaged and all will be able to progress comfortably to the next stage of their education or into working life without these formal assessments. Work set for these groups of pupils and students will naturally focus on preparation for their next stage in education.

School attendance for some children

Today and tomorrow we are putting plans in place to provide on-site educational facilities for our children with Education Health Care Plans and other identified learners, as well as children of key workers. However, we are waiting for further information from central government in order that we can firm up arrangements. Some of you have contacted us in the schools to let us know that your child will attend on Monday, others of you have asked questions about what will be provided. I want to be clear that the learning opportunities provided next week and until the Easter break will be the same as those published for all other pupils and students on line. There will be no taught national curriculum and the supervision of learning will be provided by a range of teaching and non-teaching staff. I am asking the Headteachers to create teams of staff who will work on school sites on a rota basis. We are doing this to ensure that we are doing what we can to limit spread of the Coronavirus. Headteachers will contact you again as soon as we have further information on this.

Transport and trip refunds

We know that many of you have questions about transport, either the private school transport you purchase from us or potential arrangements for next week. We will communicate with you as soon as we possibly can. Please wait to hear from us before taking action yourself. Similarly, our central finance team is working to provide cancelled trip refunds for you as soon as we can; this will take a little time.

Holiday provision

Our forward planning will also consider provision for the children of 'key workers' in the Easter holiday, which commences Monday April 6th. This is likely to be different again and could consist of recreational activities on just one of our school sites. More details will be available at a later date, bearing in mind that the national situation is changing on a daily basis and there may be revised instructions for schools.

Further information

The Headteacher of your child's school will provide you with further information specific to the school. Please be patient with us; we don't have all the answers as yet (though I wish we did!). Do please rest assured that we have a really great team of Heads, Senior Leaders, teachers and other staff who will continue to work hard to ensure that we get things right and provide for your child as best we can over the coming weeks. Email addresses and helplines will be available for all of you to access should you need them.

Please contact us in the central MLP team via icarley@magnalearningpartnership.org.uk should you have any questions. Thank you for all the messages of support we have received in schools this week. I am so sorry that we are in the extraordinary position we are in – but we will get through it together.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer