

23 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are keeping well and safe. I write to keep you updated with the situation at school regarding the coronavirus outbreak, and to ensure that you are updated with respect to national developments.

School Closure

As you know the school is now closed until further notice. We have, however, ensured that we are able to remain open solely to allow us to provide 'care' for a 'limited number of children... who are vulnerable [i.e. has an EHC plan or social worker] and whose parents are critical to the COVID-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home'. As such, and to reiterate, unless you have confirmed with us that your child falls into either of these categories and that you intend to send your child to school, your child should remain home, with appropriate care, until further notice. Any student who attends school when they should not, will be expected to be collected from school immediately.

If you have informed us via our 'COVID-19 Reduced Provision' survey that you are a critical worker or your child is 'vulnerable', and that you needed them to attend our reduced 'care' provision but have since changed your mind, please do ensure that you speak with us to confirm the situation. Equally, please let us know in the future of any change in your circumstances that would mean you would require your child to attend our reduced 'care' provision.

If you are a parent or carer of a student who is attending school, please remember that, as the Department for Education has stated, we are open during this period of temporary school closures to ensure that 'children of critical workers and vulnerable children are supervised and properly cared for.' As such, the government is lifting 'curriculum requirements for schools, giving flexibility to provide support, activities and education in the way they see fit'. When in school during this time, safeguarding will be our priority, and we will ensure that children adhere to the measures advised by HM Government regarding staying safe against coronavirus, including hygiene and social-distancing measures. At the same time, we will ensure that students are able to follow the programme of 'remote learning' that began today for all our students.

Remote Learning

Our program of providing support for students remotely to support their continued learning started today. Below is a reminder of the details of this provision.

- Firstly, all students should ensure that they have their login details for Class Charts, and for all learning platforms used by respective subjects. Any issues should be directed to datacheck@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk, where a member of our IT team will be able to support and troubleshoot any access issues.
- Work will be set for students for each lesson on Class Charts in each of their timetabled subjects. Where students have more than one lesson in a week, work will be set for each lesson, but may be set in one go.
- It is up to students what order to complete the work during the day, but they would be advised to keep everything as normal as possible and follow the structure of their timetable. It is also important that they adhere to the lesson timings and break times, and avoid the temptation to 'overwork' or, indeed, to do too little.
 - It is important that students keep routines as normal as possible and follow a structure at home that mirrors the structure of their learning at school. This will make their return to school in the future easier for them. Please support your children to follow and adhere to this structure, as some will inevitably find it difficult.
 - We expect students to attempt the learning activities and work set, as best they can. And we will endeavour to provide support for them as well as the remoteness permits.
- The work set may involve, where appropriate, use of online learning platforms and video support (e.g. vle.mathswatch.co.uk, www.senecalearning.com, sparx.co.uk/maths, etc.), followed by activities for students to complete to consolidate learning. Any presentations or activities will be provided in pdf to ensure everyone can access them.
- Where possible, resources will include solutions and model responses to allow students to check their progress.

We have also distributed last week a document that we have compiled for you that lists a selection of 40 superb and free 'Online Resources to support Home Learning' that may support you and your child in addition to the remote learning outlined above. I attach this document again to this email for your convenience.

Links to current advice

(Please do check these pages regularly as they are updated constantly.)

- NHS Health information and advice
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Guidance for schools about temporarily closing
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing
- Maintaining Educational Provision (including 'Critical Worker' lists and principles).
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>
- Guidance on vulnerable children and young people
www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people
- Information for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>
- Guidance for educational settings on COVID-19
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>
- Information on the cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020
www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2020
- Ofqual's 'further' statement on coronavirus re Examinations
www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-a-further-statement
- Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable people at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people
- Guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19)
www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19
- Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

We will continue to update you via email, through our website (www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk), and through social media (Twitter: @OkehamptonCC, Facebook: @OkehamptonCollege).

Thank you again very much for your continued support. If you have any further concerns that you feel we may be able to help with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Keep looking after yourselves, and each other.

Yours faithfully



Derrick Brett
Principal