

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mrs H Baker



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus - Bulletin - 19/3/20

Following on from the Government's announcement at 5.15pm yesterday, we have had to respond and make changes to our immediate plans and those going forward.

Partial Closure Changes

All schools close on Friday 20th March to the majority of students and this potentially means it may be sometime before we see some of our students again, particularly those in Years 11 and 13. As Year 11 and 13 examinations and assessments have been cancelled, we have now taken the decision that these year groups remain at home on Friday 20th March. The following year groups are to attend school as normal on Friday 20th March; Years 7, 9, 10 and 12 with Years 8, 11 and 13 to remain at home. It is important that students in Years 10 and 12 who are fit and able to come to school do attend, as these students will potentially miss a significant portion of their academic year and will still have examinations in 2021. We want to ensure we maximise the teaching and learning they have available.

The cancellation of all examinations and assessments for 2020 was always an option and will no doubt be a shock to students and their families. However, we are well prepared to work with examination boards, sixth forms, colleges, universities and employers to provide the right information at the right time. As soon as we know what is required and expected to ensure our students get the grades they deserve, we will update you too. Much of the school work which we recently set for Year 11 and 13 will still have some purpose, value and impact. Particularly for students looking to study particular subjects at sixth form, college and/or to pursue an apprenticeship in one of their subject areas. It is important that students do not have gaps in their learning in the coming months and it will be important to complete topics and units before starting post-16 courses. Staff will now modify the work that has been set and make it more relevant in light of the removal of examinations and assessments for these two year groups.

For Years 11 and 13, we would still like to organise leaving celebrations and proms when the time is right, even if this extends into the next academic year. We are committed to celebrating their time at the school and their achievements. Even today, on hearing this unprecedented news, with very mixed emotions they have been superb – please thank them on our behalf.

Communication

A reminder that non-essential queries are to be kept to a minimum so that we can devote our time to priority and urgent matters. Should you need to make contact with us, if there is anything that you don't know and need to know, please email enquiries@qegs.email and refrain from coming into school or telephoning unless in an emergency, as we need to keep our telephone lines as free as possible.

Plans for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Students

We are currently working on plans to respond to the Government announcement that schools will remain open for these students from Monday 23rd March. We will send a further bulletin regarding this later today. For now, we are focusing our attention and support on Years 11 and 13 who will be experiencing a mix of emotions and confusion. We will be sure to keep parents informed as and when the Government make us aware of further news.

We do not have all the answers at this time. We are trying to do our best in these challenging times with staff pulling together to ensure our students continue to receive the best education we can provide.

Yours faithfully

Scott Garrity
Headteacher