



Emanuel School

Mr Robert Milne, Headmaster

18 March 2020

Dear Parents

I am sure that many of you have seen the latest announcement from the government on public exams. The same announcement explained that schools will close by the end of this week.

Public exams

The notice set out that public examinations will not take place this May or June.

At this stage there is no further detailed information, other than to say pupils will 'get the qualifications they need and deserve.'

As we do not yet know if this will mean exams may take place at a later date or there will be another means of addressing matters, we will be advising all pupils in exam years to continue with their studies and try to remain as positive as possible. We will do all we can to find out more and report this to you when ready.

We are also mindful that this position from the government is uncertain on international GCSEs and some other qualifications.

Actions for this Thursday

Our school will close at the end of the school day tomorrow, Thursday. Today we have operated with 25% fewer pupils than normal and ever increasing challenges in staffing lessons. We have been very aware of the inherent problems in delivering education in this way and the welfare concerns for pupils and staff. This is not including issues of public transport and wanting to maintain a safe site for all.

During the course of tomorrow, we will speak to those exam year pupils still attending school and will send a follow up letter to their parents. We are aware of how concerned they will be and for those leaving the school, we will make plans in the future for an event to celebrate their time with us.

Taking books and materials home

Please encourage your child to bring home all their exercise and text books, and to collect any exercise books from teachers who may have collected them in. They should also clear their lockers and bring home their sports kit and their musical instruments. Their form tutor will explain all of this to them in the morning.

If your child has been away from school and you need to collect something, please contact your head of year and they will help you, by leaving items at the gatehouse for you to collect by the end of this week.



Emanuel School

Mr Robert Milne, Headmaster

Key workers and vulnerable children

If you feel that you or your daughter/son fall into these categories and would like to speak to us about your child's care in the coming days, please do contact Mr Kothakota tomorrow.

Preparing for our move to remote learning

We have decided to close before the last day of the week and tomorrow at 3.45pm will be our last day of learning on site this term.

This is so that we can best prepare our move to a remote learning programme next week. This evening we continued to do 'remote' training with all staff and we will be sending all families a letter about remote learning tomorrow, as well as reiterating previously issued guidance to pupils.

Training for staff on Friday

On Friday our teaching staff will spend more time preparing to remotely teach our pupils, and I wish to provide them with some time to make plans as well as to look after their respective families. I am very aware that they have not been able to do this of late.

Pupil preparation at home on Friday

At this stage the first day of our remote learning 'stress test' will be Monday 23rd March. This will allow pupils time to ensure they have all they need, as set out in their instructions from Mrs Peters and ensure they have other materials and books to hand.

Remote learning stress testing days next week

Mrs Peters will write to you by the end of this week about our intentions for the coming week and the way in which we will use some or all of next week to roll out and stress test our remote teaching systems and routines. In addition to testing the systems, we know how important routine can be for the pupils.

Thank you for all your support of the teaching staff and understanding in all of this.

We continue to balance our commitment to you, your child's welfare and our obligations as an employer. All of this within the context of some deeply unsettling times and changing government guidance.

I wish you all well and we will stay in touch.

Yours sincerely