

# Coronavirus Update 3: 20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

In line with government guidelines, due to the current situation regarding Coronavirus, Banovallum will be closed to students with effect from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 for all pupils **with the exception of those whose parents are identified as Key Workers, or those students who are vulnerable.**

Key Workers are those defined as working in the following areas:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

*If you have initially decided not to use the school but your circumstances change, and you need to use us, that is not a problem. All we would ask is 24 hours' notice, so that we can accommodate your child(ren).*

*If your shift patterns change or circumstances change, please let us know in good time.*

**Normal absence arrangements will apply. If your child is due to come in to school but is not present, we will contact you as normal.**

## **For Those Coming Into School**

On a practical level, here are the arrangements for Monday & hopefully beyond but as I am sure you will understand, things could be subject to change as we move forward. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

### **Basics**

- As we understand it, all LCC provided transport is running as normal
- Students should enter the school via the main reception, wash their hands, sign in and out using their own pen/pencil, or if they use the pens provided, wipe them before & after use with the wipes provided
- Medicines & Paracetamol will be issued as normal from reception
- In order for the children to be identified, they will have to wear school uniform – I appreciate this contradicts an earlier update but on reflection, if further restrictions on movement are put in place, this will enable students to be identified. They should also bring their PE kit and clothes that they could do some work such as gardening in as we may do a variety of activities (see below)

### **Buildings in Use**

- We will be using the main building and the CADT block
- Guthlac & the LSCR will be closed from Monday at 4pm for the duration of the school closure

### **School Day**

- Initially normal start & finish times
- We will alter the timings of the school day slightly with break at 11.00am and lunch at 1.00pm

## **Meals**

- The Canteen will be serving:
  - Breakfast as normal
  - Hot food at break & lunchtime
  - Initially there will be no chilled food unless specifically ordered by staff by 9.00am
- Those eligible for free school meals will get a pack-up to take home

## **Activities**

- The day will be split into two halves:
  - Students will be doing the work as set by staff via Epraise & other means
  - They will take part in enrichment activities such as: Sports; Improving the school environment; Cookery; DIY skills; Lego Club; Silent Reading; Gardening & others as developed by the school over the coming weeks

## **For Those Not Coming Into School**

- Work will be set on Epraise & students should continue to work through that
- Details on submitting work and marking & feedback will be publicised over the coming days – we need to ensure we have the capability to do this electronically – we are confident that this will be the case

## **Year 11**

We acknowledge that it has not quite been the send-off & celebration that we had intended for Year 11 but I have to say that their behaviour has been exceptional since the school closures were announced. They have remained focused, respectful and good-humoured despite their obvious disappointment at school ending abruptly. Here is a short update on specific Year 11 issues

- The Saturday revision sessions will not now take place.
- Rest assured, it is our intention to hold a celebration event at some time in the future and to also hold a Prom in one form or another to celebrate their time at Banovallum and to thank them for their contribution to the school.
- At the time of writing, there has been no communication from the government on the exam situation. They should continue to work as if the exams were going to take place. Whatever the government decides, we will continue to support the students as they make their next step.

On behalf of everyone at Banovallum, thank you for all your efforts and contribution to our unique atmosphere.

## **General**

On a positive note, the Brave the Shave fund-raising currently stands at £4,129.91. an amazing & humbling amount. Thank you to everyone who donated and meant we smashed our original target of £1,000.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Banovallum community for their support over the last few weeks. It has been the most challenging few weeks of our careers. What has made it work has been the support from every stakeholder in Banovallum. Thank you to everybody for your help and support. Please follow the government's advice, look after yourselves and your families and we will see you safe and healthy sooner rather than later.

All the very best.

Mr Edgar