



5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure you are now aware, that since I last wrote to you, only yesterday, the situation in secondary schools in England has changed further. Following an address from the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, last night, secondary schools will now be closed until February half term at the earliest. Therefore, I will update my letter from yesterday below and outline what may happen next:

From Tuesday 5th January until Friday 12th February

School will be closed to all students. With the exception of vulnerable students and children of critical/key workers.

From Tuesday 5th January the following students can still attend school for supervision and learning activities:

- Vulnerable students (identified by school) – from all year groups
- Children of critical workers (see [definition of a critical worker](#) here) from all year groups (please refer to the text message received and complete the link within)

The students in school will remain in their Year Group Bubbles. Students will be expected to wear their school uniform (Years 7 – 11), bring relevant equipment each day and meet all our usual expectations, including our COVID risk mitigation measures.

Students should arrive at school through the front reception area at their usual start time:

Y7 at 8:15 am; Y8 at 8:25; Y9 at 8.35; Y10 at 8.45 and Y11 at 8.55 to prevent them mixing with other Year Group Bubbles.

Post 16 students should arrive at their usual entrance and sign in with Mrs Pearson at 8.25 am.

The small number of students in school, for this next half term, will not be attending normal lessons with their normal teacher. They will be supervised by other teachers and support staff. Staffing will be in school on a rota basis and in small numbers. This is to minimise infections between staff and students and between staffing.

Students will be supervised completing their remote learning work, which is being set by their teachers. Full details of our remote learning provision can be found on our website. Please follow the 'pop-up' banner links when you access the website.

Expectations of students learning remotely

If your son or daughter does not have internet access at home, or there are any other issues with access to remote learning, please inform school as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made. Work packs will be sent out to homes for those families without internet access, or have requested them. We will be obtaining more laptops and internet access for students in the coming days. These will be distributed to those with need for them.

Remote learning will be monitored for 'levels of engagement'. In short, meaning how engaged students are in the work set, how productive they are and the quality of the work they produce and provide for teachers. This will then be reported back to you, so you can better support your child and you can better understand the progress they are making while the school is closed.

Teachers, leaders and our pastoral teams will work with you, and your child, to ensure they receive the care, support and guidance to get through this next period of lockdown well.

Please note that partnership lessons with Brigshaw will not begin until Wednesday 6th January 2021 and will be taught remotely/online.

Friday 12th February – Sunday 21st February

Half term holidays - School will be closed to all students, including vulnerable students and children of critical/key workers and staff.

From Monday 22nd February

At this point, we are hopeful that all students will return to school for face-to-face teaching on Monday 22nd February 2021. Please be minded, that this is not yet confirmed.

If we do come back then, all students should arrive at school through their normal entrance point, at their usual start time: Y7 at 8:15 am; Y8 at 8:25; Y9 at 8.35; Y10 at 8.45; Y11 at 8.55 and Y12 and 13 at 8.25.

Full details about reopening, will be shared with you nearer the time.

Vulnerable Students and Children of Critical Workers

The Government has provided a [definition of a critical worker](#) for this purpose. If you classify as a critical worker and you would like to book a place for your child, please complete the link within the text message you will have received, before Christmas and on Monday this week, as soon as possible if you have not yet done so, and **by 4 pm on Tuesday 5th January at the latest.**

School will identify vulnerable students and their parents will be contacted individually with the offer of a school place from the 5th January – 12th February. This will include (but will not be restricted to) children who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and Looked After Children. If your child falls into either of these categories, then they will be able to attend school during this period.

BTEC Exams

Post 16 BTEC exams next week will go ahead as scheduled.

Y10 students sitting the BTEC Construction examination on Thursday 7th January will be contacted by Mr. Harmer today, to discuss their preparations and whether it is appropriate to take this examination on Thursday. Given the fact that we had planned to offer face to face boosters to help students prepare, which we are no longer able to do, we believe that it will be in the best interests of most students to delay the sitting of these exams until a future date. However, we recognise that some students may have already prepared for these and may wish to sit the examination as planned, and therefore this will be determined during the conversation with Mr. Harmer.



GCSE and A level Examinations

Presently, both GCSE and A level examinations have been cancelled for summer 2021. There are no details as yet to what will replace the examinations, allowing all students in Years 11 and 13 to receive 'grades' for the subjects they have studied. This is not a reason for students to stop working hard and progress their learning. It is highly likely that, given the amounts of time lost to learning over the last year for these students, they will have to complete some type of formal assessments in school, and online, in the coming weeks and months. Therefore, it is more critical than ever that students continue to work to the best of their abilities. Giving up now will not help them in the near future. Teachers can only grade work that they have actually completed. You will be updated once we begin the process of grading and how this will work this year, but for now, please ensure your child continues to complete their remote learning.

Free School Meals

Those students eligible for FSM will be provided with meal vouchers that are redeemable at a local supermarket. These will be sent via email to parents and will cover the full allocation of financial support that the school receives per child.

Children who are eligible to attend school as part of the 'Critical Worker' or identified in the 'Vulnerable' cohort will receive a daily packed lunch. If there are further changes to this system, such as the introduction of a Government-led scheme, we will update families in due course. For any parents that wish to apply for FSM status to Leeds City Council, the application forms and guidance can be found on the school website and is hyperlinked for you below:

<https://tmhs.co.uk/students-parents-carers/free-school-meals/>

Mass and serial testing of students and staff

We are currently making arrangements to offer COVID-19 lateral flow device testing to students and staff. The guidance for this is still being updated by the Government, but we aim to introduce this testing as soon as possible. This will certainly be in place once all students return to school for face to face teaching, from Monday 22nd February. I will write to you again as soon as our plans have been finalised. Please be re-assured that we will only test students where parental consent has been given in advance.

I have written to you many times, and spoken to you directly in my video addresses, in the last nine months about the unprecedented times we all face. It seems these times continue. In the coming weeks, I will ensure you are updated on how the school will reopen and the planning for mass and serial testing in school. I will also keep you informed about how Y11 and Y13 grades will be issued in the absence of examinations in the summer. Please be assured that we will work hard for your child, ensuring they get the recognition they deserve for their efforts in their final grades.

Yet again, this is a fast-moving situation and potentially the planning outlined in this letter, will not be the same in a few weeks' time – please expect more changes. But for now, this is where we are. My staff and I will continue to do our best to support your child's learning in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West
Principal

