

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Yet again I am writing to tell you that staff and students have approached today in a positive and professional way. In spite of their obvious concerns, they have attended lessons and shown an excellent level of resilience. I could not be more proud of them.

At the moment there are still lots of unknowns for us. In the update that follows, please assume that if we don't provide additional information about something, it's because we are still awaiting further news.

Safeguarding

Keeping our students safe is always top of our list of priorities. If you have any concerns about a young person, please see our website for safeguarding contact information.

<https://academytrust.sgscol.ac.uk/media/Safeguarding-Information.pdf>

Staff will be available throughout the closure period so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Year 11 and Year 13 examinations

We are expecting to hear from the government tomorrow about the arrangements for year 11 and 13 students in respect of examination grades. There should then be more information forthcoming about sixth form, college and university applications.

Farewell to Year 11 and Year 13

Staff and students alike are feeling very sad about the prospect of saying goodbye to their friends without a proper send-off. It is of course possible that we will re-open directly after Easter, but the uncertainty is unsettling.

We are therefore proposing that each of these year groups should have a proper send-off later in the year. When that will be and what shape it might take will depend entirely on how things unfold during the coming weeks. Please rest assured however that we intend to give them a good send-off at the right time.

Work for Year 11 and Year 13

Given that GCSEs and A Levels have been cancelled, students are now asking the question: shall I bother revising for exams? There is no simple answer to this. Obviously, they won't be sitting exams so revision may feel quite artificial. However, we have explained to them that there is still value in committing subject knowledge to memory. They may need this knowledge to help them with their next steps. Students going on to post 16, college or university courses for example will need to keep their subject knowledge refreshed and give them the best possible start.

Students eligible to attend after closure

We have asked all parents to tell us whether they are key-workers, and we have contacted directly the parents or carers of the other students eligible to be on site after we close tomorrow. Because we will only have a skeleton staff available, the programme for students will be entirely different to that which they might normally expect. Our aim will be to enable students to access the distance learning provided by subject teachers with

plenty of one-to-one support. We will also provide additional activities like sport and film studies. Because of the very small numbers of students involved, we will be able to develop a highly personalised and enjoyable programme. Tomorrow we will be able to confirm arrangements for catering during this time.

Transport

For students who will continue to attend, we are currently working with Applegates to lay on appropriate transport. This is likely to be a single bus that will stop at appropriate points to enable all relevant students to attend.

Free School Meals

We are going to provide supermarket vouchers for all parents/carers of students eligible for free school meals. In the first instance, we will provide sufficient vouchers for the final two weeks of term. We will send these by first-class post at the start of next week. We will be in touch in due course to let you know arrangements for after Easter.

Plans for tomorrow (Friday)

Students will be with subject teachers for much of the morning. We will then all come together at 12:00 for an enjoyable activity (to be confirmed). We would like students to come in clothing appropriate to do something fun and possibly sporty, such as tracksuit trousers and trainers. We will then say our farewells for the time being.

Study for Year 10 and Year 12

Final details of the work that has been set for years 10 and 12 will be sent to you tomorrow.

As ever, we would ask that you regularly check the UTC website for further updates. On the Covid-19 page you will also find contact details for all teaching staff - <https://academytrust.sgscol.ac.uk/news/sgs-berkeley-green-utc/covid-19-information>

I will of course be back in touch tomorrow with further updates and will continue to do so throughout the closure period.

The thoughts of the staff team are with each and every one of our students this evening.

With warmest wishes

Louise

Louise Davies
Headteacher