



**PARK HALL**  
A C A D E M Y

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ASSOCIATE HEADTEACHER: DR T CLOSE

Thursday, 19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I appreciate that at the moment you are being inundated with letters and information relating to the current Coronavirus situation and the impact that it is having upon schools and our community. We are trying very hard to provide accurate and measured communication where, in most cases, we are merely communicating the same national guidance that you have already seen. I hope that what we can do is try to provide clarity and context of how the national picture is impacting us and in turn you and your children.

### **Confirmed Closures**

The latest guidance makes it clear that **schools are now closed until further notice**, other than for looking after the children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. In order to support our planning for this we will be sending out a separate email, with a questionnaire later on today, to ascertain the scope of demand for us to provide this service. Please be reassured that Park Hall will ensure these children will be supervised undertaking silent private study, completing the work set remotely by their teachers.

### **Home Learning**

For the majority of our children and families you have now begun home learning. We very much hope that they are managing to access the work that is being set and making use of the various online platforms available for this learning. We have been delighted to see the response of our students in accessing and submitting work.

### **Examinations**

The most striking news to be released last night was related to the fact that summer examinations for both GCSE and A Level students will not go ahead this summer. Once again, we are left with an uncertain picture of what the implications of this announcement are and how the government will achieve their commitment to their statement of "We will work with the sector and [the exams watchdog] Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications that they need". We are reluctant at this time to speculate what this may mean and on what basis students will be awarded the grades. It is clear that students will be awarded grades, although at this stage we do not know how that will be administered. As ever we will endeavour to provide as much clarity on this as and when we are able to. For now, we recommend they continue with their studies; this provides consistency and routine at a time of uncertainty and ensures that learning habits are maintained. This is because one possible outcome could be an online assessment to support wider evidence of attainment.

It is important for us to address the fact that, for our Year 11 and 13 students and parents, today's announcement has produced huge anxiety, frustration, anger and confusion and I am sure a multitude of other emotions. Whilst we cannot tell you exactly what will happen, we can tell you this: we are proud of you and we are 100% with you. We understand and share in all of the emotions you feel. We are and



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always will be a school that prides itself on its teamwork. We share in your successes but we also empathise in times of difficulty.

We will support each and every one of you to ensure that you achieve all that you aim to achieve. We will be guided by national policy and, as a clearer picture emerges of what this means, we will keep you informed and make sure that you know the impact that it will have on you as a collective and for your own individual journeys.

We will issue further correspondence to our Year 11 and 13 cohorts separately on this matter when we have more information to give. We felt it was important to share this sentiment more widely initially. We as staff feel for all of our students in these year groups; I am sure all members of our community will share in the fact that we are all disappointed that you find yourselves in this situation, having worked so hard to reach this point so well equipped. Once again, **we want to stress and reiterate just how proud of you we are.** In the same way you have coped with all the challenges that you have faced so far, you will cope with this one as well and you can certainly be assured you will do so with 100% support from all in our Park Hall community.

We would like to say a collective thanks for all of your hard work in supporting our students. We would also like to thank you for the many votes of thanks and support that we have received in trying to make the very best of a difficult situation, this has really helped to buoy our staff.

Yours sincerely,

Dr T Close  
Associate Headteacher