



Colchester High School

Dear Parent

As you will be aware, the Government has this afternoon announced the closure of all schools in England from the end of Friday 20 March due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Our school premises will continue as normal tomorrow and Friday. The Easter term will still end on Friday 27th March and we are planning on summer term commencing as previously advised on Tuesday 21st April, whether physically at school or virtually.

We are exploring the means by which we could offer supervised care for the children of key workers. Please let Helen Clarke, Marketing Manager, know tomorrow Thursday 19 March if you feel you may fall into this category via helen.clarke@cognita.com and we will confirm details shortly.

I appreciate this news is unsettling but want to reassure you of the steps we are taking to provide support for our pupils and parents during the closure. As you know, we've been working closely with our Cognita colleagues in Asia, where some countries have had mandatory school closures for many weeks and also more recently in Spain and Switzerland. Our plan is informed by the practice they've put in place and we are confident we have an effective strategy for our children to continue learning. We have recently refreshed the digital technology in our school and conducted training in its use which means our teaching staff are well equipped to make the transition to digital learning for your child.

Mrs Croydon will be writing to parents tomorrow giving further specific details about the online learning programme for your son or daughter. Clearly this will be a new way of working and learning for us all and we expect to adapt the programme as we go. As confirmed in the Education Secretary's briefing there will be no public exams held this year. We appreciate the enormity of this announcement and will communicate further with affected parents and pupils on this shortly as more exact information becomes available.

We appreciate that there will be an impact on parents and our plan includes advice for you. With that in mind, our Group Wellbeing Director Beth Kerr has prepared the attached 'Be Well Tips' for parents on supporting your child during a school closure.

Thank you in advance for your support at this challenging time. Our teachers have been preparing well for the possibility of a closure. All our efforts are concentrated on two priorities: maintaining the wellbeing of our children and staff and ensuring the continuity of their education in the days or weeks to come. I would like to take this opportunity to share my gratitude to our incredible staff who have risen to the challenge at this difficult time, and worked extremely hard to ensure effective learning is still taking place. The exceptional levels of care and understanding I have seen from the staff has been remarkable, and they have proved once again that they really do go the extra mile to look after the pupils in their care.



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All teachers will be on their school email address (click [here](#)) and will be contactable either directly or through the school office. We will continue to communicate closely with you throughout the closure and will update as soon as we have more information. Please do not hesitate to contact me personally at david.young@cognita.com if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

David Young

Headteacher