



The Crossley Heath School

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5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a new lockdown late last night, I regret that I must confirm that school will now be closed until mid-February (return date to be confirmed at a later date), except to vulnerable children and those of critical workers. I am sure you will share our dismay at this latest development.

Students will continue to study remotely via Microsoft Teams over the period of the lockdown. They should follow their normal timetable as far as possible starting at 8.30 each day. We are working very hard to ensure high quality learning for all year groups. Last week we sent you a summary of the expectations for remote learning. Our staff will deliver more 'live' learning than during the previous lockdown, together with setting work for independent study each week. Examples of live learning include:

- teacher online utilising chat facility to discuss ideas and answer questions
- teacher conducting a video conference
- teacher uploading a recorded video/narrated power point and being available online for questions/answers.

All students will have the opportunity to engage actively with their teachers during the course of each week. Please bear in mind that, over an extended period, being on screen all day may have a negative impact on health and wellbeing. Therefore, please do not expect your child to be at their screen all the time. Please encourage them to move about during breaks and to move away from their screen when studying independently if possible.

Supporting the wellbeing of your child is extremely important to us. Our pastoral team are available to provide help, advice and reassurance, and are already in regular contact with many families. They will endeavour to contact all students as regularly as possible during the period of the lockdown. The Wellbeing tab on our website has a range of information, resources and guidance that you might find useful for helping your child.

If you have an urgent concern about your child's wellbeing, engagement with remote learning or ability to cope with remote learning, please contact your child's Progress Leader in the first instance. You can also use the 'worried about something' button at the bottom of our website (see below).

If you have significant concerns about your child's mental health, please contact Mr Chesters (Y7-11) or Miss Rudman (Y12-13)

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If you have a **serious** safeguarding concern, contact Mr Chesters on our urgent safeguarding phone.

How to contact key staff for urgent concerns or queries:

For urgent safeguarding concerns contact Mr Lee Chesters 0779 327 0168.

For urgent concerns about well-being or remote learning:

<u>Progress Leaders/Pastoral Leaders</u>		
Mr L Chesters	Assistant Head teacher/Designated Safeguard Lead	l.chesters@crossleyheath.org.uk
Mr C Davis	Progress Leader Y7 / SENCO	c.davis@crossleyheath.org.uk
Mr D Spencer	Progress Leader Y9 (Teacher of Geography)	d.spencer@crossleyheath.org.uk
Mr N Charlesworth	Progress Leader Y8 (Teacher of Computer Science)	n.charlesworth@crossleyheath.org.uk
Mr P Smith	Progress Leader Y10(Teacher of Religious Studies)	p.smith@crossleyheath.org.uk
Mr S Donlan	Progress Leader Y11 (Teacher of History)	s.donlan@crossleyheath.org.uk
Mr M Schofield	Progress Leader Y12/13 (Dept Leader Economics and Business)	m.schofield@crossleyheath.org.uk
Mr N O'Connor	Pastoral Leader	n.oconnor@crossleyheath.org.uk
Mrs E Griggs	Pastoral Leader	e.griggs@crossleyheath.org.uk
Ms J Rudman	Pastoral Leader Year 12 & 13	j.rudman@crossleyheath.org.uk

To report a concern through our website, look for this button at the bottom of the webpage.



For all other **urgent** queries, please contact us on admin@crossleyheath.org.uk.

Mini-school (children of key workers and those who are vulnerable and/or have SEND)

The mini-school will continue to run for eligible children. If your child is attending the mini-school already and you need to change your arrangements, or if you need to register your child for the mini-school at a later stage of the lockdown, please contact Mrs Heaton on c.heaton@crossleyheath.org.uk.

Parents of students in Y11 and Y13

We understand that the announcement last night about summer exams has been very disconcerting for students and parents. Last night we received this statement from the Department for Education (DfE):

“..we do not think it is possible for exams to go ahead fairly this summer. The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly”.

Today, we note that Michael Gove has confirmed to the media that exams are ‘cancelled’, although we have not been officially informed of this. We understand that the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, will make a further statement tomorrow (Wednesday).

I hope you will appreciate that we share your frustration and concerns about this vague and ill-timed announcement. We are, unfortunately, no better informed about what the DfE or Ofqual intend for summer GCSE and A level qualifications than you are. I would like to clarify that we do not have any preview of government announcements and have received no official communication other than the DfE statement above. In this context, I regret we are unable to answer any questions or provide any information at this stage. To try to respond to questions would amount to pure speculation and

would be inappropriate. Therefore, can I ask you not to send any questions relating to exams to staff. When we receive any substantive, official information, please give us time to examine it and we will then communicate directly with everybody as soon as we can.

Whilst we will continue to keep you informed by letter or email, please note we will also shortly put a button on our website called 'Y13 & Y11' which will link to all previous communications and the most up to date information and guidance.

I can assure you that students will undertake robust assessment upon their return to school. We intend to run mock examinations for both Y11 and Y13 as soon as we are able. In the meantime, the revision already done is very valuable in securing deep knowledge and understanding of subject matter. The work completed will stand your son/ daughter in good stead for the remainder of the academic year and in later study. Please reassure him/her that their time has not been wasted. Students should continue to work diligently because what they do over the next few months is likely to improve their progress and to inform any process or assessments used in the determination of grades.

Thank you for your positivity and patience in these uncertain times. The school leadership and staff really appreciate your support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lynnette Cassidy
Headteacher