

Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

A Church of England School



20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Coronavirus Update

You will be aware that the Prime Minister has announced plans for schools to close at the end of the day on Friday 20th March 2020.

Thank you for the information you have provided for us to enable us to begin to plan for continued provision for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children.

Distance Learning

From Monday, the vast majority of our students will be learning from home. This is clearly going to look different to a normal school day and we hope, if you are able, that your plans include family time, exercise and relaxation. Speaking to your children about the situation is important and there is some useful information to guide you in these conversations on the following websites:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/#ten-tips-from-our-parents-helpline>

We have already issued guidance on our plans for home learning and you can see the guidance we shared with the students earlier this week on our website.

<https://www.samworth.tgacademy.org.uk/files/2020/03/How-to-work-from-home.pdf>

I have held several assemblies to explain how to work from home, we have held lessons to show and ensure that all students know how to access learning from home.

Primary – please see letter posted by Mrs Collins 20th March on academy website.

Secondary

During the school closure we will be focusing on providing work for students using Show My Homework.

<https://thesamworth.satchelone.com/school/homeworks/calendar>

As general guidance, we are asking students to follow their usual two-week timetable and access work daily for each of their timetabled lessons. This will include some learning checks in the form of online quizzes and the ability to submit work for teachers to see.

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I am sure that you will appreciate that this situation is also affecting many of our staff, who are now having to self-isolate or provide care for their own families. We have asked teachers to do what they can during the school closure period and would ask for your understanding during this difficult time.

Work Packs

We have provided paper work-packs for all ages of children. If your child has not brought one home and you would like a pack, please contact the office and we will arrange this for you.

Provision for Children of Key Workers and Others

From Monday, if we have not received guidance that instructs us to do otherwise, we are planning to open the Academy for children of key workers and for the most vulnerable children. We have been in contact with all of the parents identified in these groups and have agreed on the support we can offer. This provision is only for children who we have agreed. The school will be closed to all other students and I must stress that other students will not be allowed into the building following the clear instruction from government to close all schools.

Support for Students who are entitled to Free School Meals

We have been working with our catering team to ensure we can provide for students who are entitled to Free School Meals. Student services have made contact with all families this affects and food parcels have been collected from the Academy/ have been delivered to our identified families. We are looking at how we can keep on supporting our families over a longer closure period and I will update you on this very soon in a separate letter.

If you feel you are entitled to Free School Meals and have not registered please do so at the link below. This is particularly important if you are in Early Years, Year 1 or Year 2 because the universal school meals do not count as "Free School Meals" and will not be provided during the school closure period.

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/grants-and-allowances/free-school-meals>

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Emotional Support for Students

We have reminded students of the support available to them at school and via external agencies. This information can also be found in the student planner (secondary) or on a sticker placed inside their reading log (primary). There is also useful links on our academy website which will be updated regularly during the school closure period.

https://www.samworth.tgacademy.org.uk/?wpfb_dl=320

Examinations for Students in Year 6 and Year 11

Students in Year 6 and Year 11 are, understandably, upset and anxious about the announcements made last night regarding examinations. The Prime Minister has confirmed that exams due to be taken in May / June will now not take place. This affects all SATs and GCSE exams.

In this time of uncertainty, we have ensured that all Year 6 and Year 11 students have been spoken to today and given a consistent message. I have included this information below so that you can continue to support your children at home.

Students need to continue to prepare for whatever the situation is going to be. At this stage we know that exams will not be taken in May and June but we don't know any more. We will let students know as soon as we know more.

It is important to keep control of the 'controllables'. Students cannot control the decisions happening nationally but they can take control of their own actions. At this stage, and until we know more, this includes continuing with any coursework and learning.

As a school we are very well set up to provide predicted grades should this be required. We have not been asked for this yet but we are ready for this eventuality.

*The last five / seven years have been productive - students have learnt a lot. We understand how disappointed students and parents may be, but want to remind everyone that it is the **learning** that is important.*

We will, of course, keep everyone updated as soon as we know more. Whilst we await this information, please can I kindly ask that you refrain from contacting us with individual queries about your child's predictions as we will not be able to provide any further information.

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Further Communication

We will continue to update you via the website, tests, emails and via our twitter feed @TGSAPrincipal. As a single point of contact, if you have any queries, then please contact office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk and the most appropriate member of staff will get back to you.

Over the last few days, I have been so proud of the Tudor Grange Samworth community. I want to extend my thanks to everyone who has sent messages of support to our staff during this difficult time. Students have also played their part by being co-operative and caring – real ambassadors of the Tudor Values.

The whole staff body join me in sending best wishes to you all during these difficult times. We wish everyone who is unwell a speedy recovery and look forward to returning to normality at the soonest point possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Wilkinson
Principal

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