

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Updates

Following on from my earlier letter I want to update you on the current situation for schools.

At this stage we have no guidance on how long children will be off school for but Kirsty Williams, the Education Minister has said that:

'Children will be off for four weeks but I have to be clear with parents, I am not anticipating we will be able to get schools back to normal at the end of the Easter break [or] for a considerable period of time.'

Ms Williams also said this summer's exams would not go ahead, with GCSE (year 11) and A-level (year 13) students to be graded on the work already completed.

"Learners due to sit their GCSEs and A-levels this summer will be awarded a fair grade to recognise their work, drawing on the range of information that is available."

Learning support

We will support your child's learning, as far as possible, with online resources which will be made available on 'Google Classroom'; students have already been issued with classroom codes. I've added some FAQs at the end of this letter.

Examinations

There will be no public examinations this summer and Qualifications Wales have issued their statement [here](#). They have not yet determined how they will be awarding grades and have stated that:

'We are working with Welsh Government, WJEC and fellow UK regulators to ensure that learners due to sit their GCSEs and A levels will be awarded a fair grade to recognise their work. We appreciate people will want to know more and will share further details as soon as we possibly can.'

I will update you with any further information as soon as it is made available to us.

Year 11 and Year 13

We propose to say goodbye to our Year 11 and 13 students this Friday. To make this as happy an experience as possible we will be allowing them to wear non-uniform. We are also allowing them special dispensation to use their mobile phones in class to take photographs of friends and if they wish to bring in a shirt to collect signatures/good luck messages.

Ms Stafford will update year 11 students on the process for Sixth Form entry through the Year 11 'Google Classroom' so please watch out for further details.

For Year 13 students applying to university, UCAS have stated today that they *'will be providing further guidance on examination and assessments after Friday's announcement from the Secretary of State for Education'*. The link to their guidance can be found [here](#).

We are not able to say at this stage whether the Year 11 ROA or Year 13 May Ball will be able to take place.

Year 10 and Year 12

There will be no public examinations for these year groups in the summer term and at this early stage there have been no announcements about what the provision will be for their exams planned. Again, I will keep you updated as information is made available. Students in these year groups should continue with all home learning as planned.

Re-purposed schools

Announcements yesterday made it clear that schools are going to be re-purposed to provide support for the children of key workers. We have already been asked to provide details of parents/carers who work “front line” in the NHS, police, fire service or look after the vulnerable elderly with care needs, to start to plan for this provision. Parents/carers have been requested to provide this information this morning.

Free school meals

Free School Meal pupil provision will be on emergency basis for the next two weeks but also looking to the future on a longer-term, sustained provision. This will be centrally co-ordinated. Details are to be fleshed out on this, but children will have access to free school meals on Monday as a result of arrangements set up by local authorities. We will keep you updated when we have more information.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates, through direct communication and on our website, as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via general@johnbright.uk

And remember: if you or your child feels ill and symptoms worsen or you don't feel better after 7 days, please use NHS 111 online.

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Yours faithfully

Ann Webb
Headteacher

Home Learning FAQs

How is the school setting work for my child?

All subjects will be providing work via Google Classroom. Your son/daughter will be coming home on Friday with a list of classroom codes. This is for your information as he/she should already be a member of each of his/her subject classrooms. Google Classroom is familiar to all of our students.

What type of work will they be doing?

Each subject will have looked through their schemes of work and have been preparing tasks and activities that can be completed at home, usually using a computer.

When will work be set for my child?

Students are encouraged to follow their usual timetable; tasks will be available on the day and time of the lesson. It is up to individual students when they complete the work, as long as any work set is completed by the following lesson for that subject. Some subjects may choose to post work for more than one lesson, or a series of lessons all at once. They will make this clear when they post the work.

What if my child gets stuck on a task/is unsure what to do?

Class teachers will be available to respond to any queries about the work - students will be able to post comments on the assignments in their classrooms and the teacher will respond.