

Wednesday 18th March 2020

**Coronavirus
BCCS Full School Closure
From, and including, Thursday 19th March**

Closed to: All students, Years 7-13

Dear Parents & Carers

Following yesterday's communication to close the school to selected year groups, the decision has now been made to **close the school for all students from Thursday 19th March**, until further notice.

We have made the decision to extend the closure from partial to full, primarily:

- in response, since yesterday, to a further significant decrease in our teaching and administrative staffing capacity as more households, quite rightly, follow government guidance regarding self-isolation.
- moving forward, our inability to manage the school community and site effectively and safely for all staff and students.

Whilst it may be less critical for secondary age students, we understand that there may be child-care issues for some parents and carers who work in front line health or emergency services. We recognise the difficulties for these families. For these concerns, **or any other safeguarding issues**, please email our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Gunn (mgunn@bristolcathedral.org.uk).

This is an unprecedented event for all of us; there is no way of knowing exactly when BCCS will be able to resume as normal. We have taken time to speak with students to reassure them of the steps that we are taking as a school to support wellbeing and learning. We discussed supporting each other and managing anxieties.

Please could parents and carers support and engage with student learning as much as possible, some initial ideas were shared yesterday; establishing routines will be very helpful. Students are aware of how they will access directed learning and resources; please see the VLE as the first port of call.

We must all continue to be vigilant within our communities and follow the advice from the government and Public Health England. The full guidance for staying at home can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The usual channels of communication, including Tutors, House Leaders, SENDCo and SLT, will remain in place, so do keep in touch. Please understand that staff working routines may also be impacted by arrangements relating to the outbreak, eg self-isolating or acting as carers for their families. There will be regular communication from us during the closure, via email/website/social media to help keep a sense of community and provide further information.

Please be patient with all my colleagues if you do not receive immediate replies or new systems have teething problems; trying to provide learning for a range of family circumstances, across all subjects, abilities and ages will undoubtedly cause some initial challenges.

As I included in my letter yesterday, FareShare South West, is setting up a distribution centre outside the school building and will provide food parcels to families, free of charge tomorrow at 12:00-13:00pm, outside the Cresswell Café. Free School Meals lunch boxes will be available too at 12.30pm. Should your child be eligible for Free School Meals and you wish to speak to staff, please contact Mr Patrick Callaghan (pcallaghan@bristolcathedral.org.uk) or Ms Messinger (emessinger@bristolcathedral.org.uk) via email.

Thank you so much for all the support and positive feedback you have passed on recently, I have shared these responses with colleagues. As per my letter yesterday, our first thoughts are for the health of everyone at this time. Please monitor your emails as we provide you with more specific information.

Kind regards and very best wishes,

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