



19th March 2020

Dear parent / carer,

At the time of writing this latest update, I have an overriding feeling of helplessness. Yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education created far more questions than answers. I feel particularly for our year 11 students, who when I spoke to them all this morning, simply wanted answers. I would like to reassure all of the students, parents and whole community that our children will get what they deserve. So many of them have worked very hard for over 4 years and this set of circumstances will not change the journey they have been on and who they have become. I have been reassured that the year 11 picture will be clarified tomorrow.

The school will be closed from Friday afternoon, except for those children who have parents classified as key workers (I await the promised list of who this includes!). We have been particularly proactive and began to contact all parents who may well fall into this category and who expressed an interest following last night's update.

I hope to give far more detail to you all tomorrow. I have been checking the 'hits' on the website regularly and it would appear most people are using the facility. This will be the main method of communication between school and parents whilst the school is closed. Teachers and students will communicate via e-mail, Doodle and other on-line services.

Update:

French trip – The French trip is still going ahead at this point. If we cancel now, it is outside of the government 'no travel' period and therefore insurance would not cover this. Families would lose any money already paid. There is a chance that the trip can still go ahead if a travel ban was not in place, however we continue to monitor it on a daily basis.

Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Andrew Bell
Headteacher

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.P. Bell".

Andrew Bell
Headteacher

Registered Office Address: Woodham Academy, Washington Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4AX
Tel: 01325 300 328 / Fax: 01325 301 950 / E-Mail: info@woodham.org.uk / Web: www.woodham.org.uk