



20th March 2020

Dear parent / carer,

This will be the last update that I write to you whilst the school is in full operation. The decision taken by the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education to close schools highlights the severity of what is ahead. Once children are at home, it is vital that parents and carers adopt the principles outlined by the government regarding isolation. **THIS IS NOT A HOLIDAY**. In a week of turmoil for education, I unfortunately think this principle is being overlooked. The Chief Medical Officer is clear that hundreds of thousands of people will unfortunately lose their lives. I certainly don't want to come across as 'preaching' to you all, but I do feel it's important that we all don't lose sight of this fact.

I will be preventing all but essential staff accessing the school building. In order to control the spread of the virus, the staff entering the school to work with the children of front-line staff will be in two specific teams. In addition, these teams will be restricted to a specific part of the building. The telephones will only be answered at set points during the day, so please be patient if leaving a message. The info@woodham.org.uk e-mail may well be the best way of asking questions, however I do plan on updating the website frequently.

Year 11 are most likely experiencing their last day of Woodham education today. Nobody thought it would end like this, but as I said yesterday, they will all get the grades they deserve and will be able to access their post 16 choices. The year 11 team may well be in touch with the families of specific students if they require further help with this. Two main questions from yesterday:

1. "Sir, what will happen with our exams and grades" – No exams for year 11 will go ahead and the government / OFQUAL continue to work on how grades will be allocated (most likely linked to predicted grades and KS2 SAT scores)
2. "Sir, will we still have a Prom and get our Hoodies" – YES. I will make sure this happens, even if they are all 18 years old!

Cont...

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The plan going forward

Please note that this has changed since Monday and no longer includes year 11

Year 10	Years 7, 8, 9
Daily e-mail from teachers if they were meant to have a lesson on that day	Work will be set via Doodle for these year groups
Work set by 10am each morning	Work set by teachers will be on a weekly basis as a minimum, but we will aim to check work is being complete as often as possible
Work to be sent back to teachers by 9.30am the following day (unless given longer by teacher)	Communication with teachers is possible via e-mail, but I would hope this would be kept to a minimum in order to allow teachers to work more closely with year 10
Teachers will be checking e-mails regularly to help answer questions	
Some teachers may choose to use Microsoft Teams (link in office 365)	

Polite reminder:

The helpline@woodham.org.uk e-mail that was set up this week is for **children** to report any issues whilst at home (a bit like Childline). Please use info@woodham.org.uk for general enquiries.

Thank you and stay safe,

Andrew Bell
Headteacher

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