

Stour Valley Community School

19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

At 5:15pm yesterday, the Secretary of State for Education gave a public statement that all state-funded schools in England would be closed from the end of the school day on Friday.

He also indicated that all the GCSE, AS and A-level examinations due to take place this summer have been suspended; and that students would be credited for their learning in some other way. We do not underestimate the worry and concern that this will be causing our Year 11 students and will do all we can to allay those concerns today, despite not having any answers ourselves. This is a sad and abrupt end to our Year 11 students' time at Stour Valley and we are also mindful of that.

Having indicated that all schools would be *closed*, he then indicated that they would be expected to remain *open* for the children of key workers and for those in various vulnerable categories – providing a safe place and access to meals. It will take time to determine the nature of this provision.

If you are a key worker (and we are still awaiting a definition of that) and will require this service for your child/children, please respond to this email telling us what job you do and including the name of your child/children. We ask that you do this by the end of today, if possible, or by 8am tomorrow at the latest. We are expected to provide the provision from Monday 23rd March and so this is an urgent request for information.

Although we have been anticipating such an announcement, and prepared for various scenarios, the limited details so far released raise considerably more questions than answers. You will all have your own legitimate concerns and queries.

The Secretary of State gave no undertaking that schools would be expected to sustain a pattern of normal learning during the closure; rather that any available staff would be expected to support other frontline efforts. Our school response is yet to be determined.

I will be working today with my senior team, and all staff, to clarify as best we can what this announcement means for the school, for our students and for you. I anticipate providing more details later today.

Thank you for your support and for your patience in the meantime.

For the next two days, pupil attendance is expected to continue as normal within the COVID-19 Public Health England guidance. We will remain fully open until the end of tomorrow.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Kelly
Headteacher



STOUR VALLEY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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