



Blackburn Central HIGH SCHOOL

**Blackburn Central
High School**
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19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure you are fully aware of the news that we received from the government yesterday, that schools throughout the country will be closed to everyone except children of key workers and vulnerable children from Monday 23rd March.

Examples of key workers include NHS staff, police, teachers, teaching assistants, school support staff and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. We are still awaiting a full list of these definitions. If you consider yourself to be a key worker and you wish your child to still attend school, please contact the school office and leave your details.

Examples of vulnerable children include those who have a social worker or have EHCPs/IPRAs. If your child falls into one of these categories you will receive a phone call from school.

If your child does fall into the above categories and attends school from Monday, the same health safeguards will be put in place:

- Staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others.
- If staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home. In addition, should you or your child start with symptoms of a continuous cough or a high temperature, the whole household need to self-isolate for 14 days therefore all children in that particular family group will not be allowed in school. Regardless of whether children are the child of a key worker, if they display these symptoms, they will be sent home immediately.

Year 11

We want to reassure our Year 11 students at this time. We know that they are totally overwhelmed by yesterday's announcement. Please know that we will continue to do all that we can to reassure, guide and support them. GCSEs will not take place in May or June but the government have made it clear that pupils will not be disadvantaged by this decision. We do not know what plans will be put in place at the moment but would encourage Year 11 to keep studying.

Further updates on this will follow. If any Year 11 students fall into one of the above categories, they will also still be able to attend school from Monday. **Whilst school is closed to all other students:**

If your child is unwell and would have been absent from school, please continue to inform us of that situation - particularly illnesses which may relate to coronavirus and/or the need to self-isolate.

If your child is in receipt of a Free School Meal and will not be able to attend school as they do not fall into the above categories, I understand that provisions are being made. Once we have further information on this we will share this with you.

Aspire and achieve

We are concerned about the financial impact on our families during this period and should you find yourself in financial difficulty we may be able to signpost you to appropriate support so please feel free to come and discuss it with us in the current months or make contact via the school office. We are also aware that your own circumstances may change, for example you might take up a job as a key worker in which case you will be entitled to access the planned childcare provision at school.

Access to online learning for all year groups can be found on the school website under "Quick Links". On the school website, students can access:

- Google Classroom - each student has a personal login where they can access materials set by their teacher.
- OneDrive - all students have access to OneDrive where they can save and share their own work.
- Outlook school accounts - students also have their email account which they can use to contact their teachers.

Moreover, we have set up an email account to support children who forget their passwords for other online IT resources: Passwords@bchs.co.uk

Students should email this address from their school outlook account in the event they need their password resetting.

There are a further range of resources which are internet based our children can access. Please see our website for further details.

For children and families who do not have access to the internet we will provide work packs and paper-based access to resources.

All of our students have been briefed on how to access their learning online and we are working closely with our colleagues at Blackburn with Darwen Council, Public Health England and the government to ensure that the safety and well-being of our children and staff continues to be our only priority.

We would like to offer our very best wishes and hope that anyone affected by this unprecedented virus makes a speedy recovery.

Please continue to check out website for further details.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D Atkinson
Headteacher