

19 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday after school, 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 tomorrow.

He also indicated that all the GCSE examinations, due to take place in May and June, have been suspended and that students would be credited for their learning in some other way. At this moment, our primary concern is for the emotional impact on students who have worked so hard over the past five years, for these qualifications. We will be holding an assembly so we can speak to those Year 11 who are in school this morning. We will of course make sure that we find ways to celebrate with Year 11 and mark the end of their time at Oakmoor School, even if we cannot be clear now when or how.

Having indicated that all schools would be closed, the Prime Minister then indicated that schools would be expected to remain open for the children of key workers and for those in various vulnerable categories. We are expecting a definition of 'key worker' later today from the Cabinet Office. It will take time to determine the nature of this provision.

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.

We will be working on this today 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 or tomorrow. You will appreciate that we are receiving a very high volume of calls and emails at present so if you can avoid raising individual queries for the time-being, that would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support and for your patience in the meantime, as we all work together in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Hemmings
Headteacher