



Hulme Hall Grammar School

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An independent co-educational school accredited by the Independent Schools Council

19th March, 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: School Site Closure to Pupils due to Coronavirus

Following the Government announcement yesterday that schools in England are to close, I am writing to confirm that the Hulme Hall Grammar School site will, unfortunately, be closed to pupils from 4.00pm on Friday 20th March.

Below I will outline our plans to continue with the education of your children remotely.

I have agreed the following measures with the teaching staff and it is my expectation that all teaching colleagues will be available and working from home during the normal school day (9.00am to 3.30pm) for the period of the site closure that is not covered by the Easter Holiday, which is scheduled to begin at 12.30pm on Friday April 3rd until the INSET day on Tuesday April 21st.

I have asked teachers to ensure that they adhere to the following:

Setting of work according to the normal school timetable

Work should be set daily on the Show My Homework (SMHW) app as soon as possible after 9.00am according to the normal school timetable for that day. It should be made clear in the title of the work, which day and period the work refers to. The work should be sufficient to last for the one-hour lesson, with any homework exercises added according to the homework timetable.

During this period, it is obviously important that you are able to monitor the work set and that your child has been able to complete that work. To that end, it is very important that you, as parents, have activated your SMHW app accounts using the login details previously provided by Mrs Norman. If you have any questions about the app or your login details, please e-mail Mrs Norman directly

(j.norman@hulmehallschool.org)

Submission of work

Work can be submitted to the teacher in one of two ways, depending on the nature of the work set. Please follow the instructions of the teacher as to how they wish for the work to be submitted. Teachers may ask for the work to be submitted via the SMHW app, alternatively it may be e-mailed to the member of staff by the student (via their office 365 accounts). If a hard copy of work is completed on paper, it may be worth considering taking a photograph of the work and sending to the teacher as an attachment. Staff e-mail contact addresses have been circulated to parents and are also included with this letter. Staff will record on the SMHW app when work has been submitted, so parents can keep track of when work is completed.

Headmaster: Mr D Grierson BA, MA (Econ)
Hulme Hall Grammar School, Beech Avenue, Stockport, SK3 8HA
Phone: 0161 485 3524
Email: secretary@hulmehallschool.org
Hulme Hall Educational Trust (Registered Charity No: 525931)



www.hulmehallschool.org

Marking / Return of work

Clearly this will depend on the nature of the work set and the subject involved. Some work may be self-assessed by the pupil, perhaps using mark schemes or model answers, or feedback may be given via the SMHW app or in an e-mail from the teacher to the pupils. It may, of course, be necessary to return some work when we return to school after the site closure, especially when more detailed feedback is required.

Availability to answer queries from parents and pupils

Teachers will be available to answer queries and questions from pupils and parents throughout the normal school day via e-mail. It is my expectation that you will receive a prompt response (within the hour) to any e-mails sent during the normal school day (from 9.00am to 3.30pm).

Form tutors, members of the pastoral team and the Senior Leadership Team will also be available via e-mail and I can be contacted via my secretary, Mrs Cooke, at secretary@hulmehallschool.org

I realise that this is something of a step into the unknown for all of us and I appreciate your co-operation and understanding as we try to minimise the disruption to your child's education during the period of the school site closure to pupils.

Sadly, there is of course the possibility that staff may become ill during the period of the closure. Again, we will do our best to minimise the impact of this on your son / daughter, but I am sure you will appreciate that it may be impossible for an individual member of staff to set work or respond to e-mails if they become ill. We will, of course, try to advise you where that is the case.

Children of key workers

As part of the announcement yesterday, the Government referred to the possibility of schools remaining open to provide support for the children of key workers. As I write we are still awaiting further clarification of what this means precisely, however, to assist us in our planning, if you feel that you fall into the key worker category and you also feel that you will need to send your child into school next week, please e-mail my secretary, Mrs Cooke (secretary@hulmehallschool.org), to inform her of your need. **Please contact Mrs Cooke by 12.00pm on Friday 20th March.** The Government has promised further clarification as to what constitutes a key worker later today, but yesterday they referred to the following groups:

- NHS staff
- Police
- Supermarket staff
- Delivery drivers
- Social care workers
- Teachers

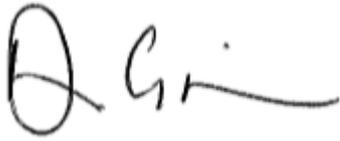
GCSE Examinations

The last few weeks and months have been an extremely stressful time for our Year 11 pupils and parents as they have prepared for their GCSE examinations. The Government announced yesterday that these examinations would not take place in May and June. As yet, we do not know how this situation will develop and I will write separately to Year 11 parents when we have more information. For now, we have to trust in the Government's promise that the children will not be disadvantaged. Year 11 pupils remain on our roll and staff will continue to set work for them according to the timetable. I believe that, given the current situation, this is the best way to ensure that the children are as well prepared as they can be for the next stage of their education.

Whilst on the topic of examinations, the examinations scheduled in the coming weeks for Years 8 and 10 will not now take place as planned. Alternative arrangements to formally assess the children's progress will be made when we return to the school site.

Thank you to you all for your support at this difficult time. I wish you and your families well in the weeks ahead.

Yours faithfully



Dean Grierson
Headmaster