



19th March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Coronavirus Update – School Closure

Following on from my last update to you, I am now writing to let you know that **we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children this Friday, until further notice. School will close from 12.40 pm on Friday 20th March for all students.** This closure will be in place until schools across the country are advised that they can re-open.

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, delivery drivers for essential products) and children who are in care, or have an EHCP in place.

We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories and may need to be in school. Please note, we cannot provide supervision for children who do not fall into the categories listed above.

If you feel your child fits into one of the categories above and that there will be no adult at home during this closure period please email the school at welcome@central.towerhamlets.sch.uk giving the following details:

1. Your daughter's name and form.
2. Your name. Your email address and phone contact number.
3. If you are a key worker please provide your occupation and place of work. If your child has an Education Health Care plan, please state this.

I will be in touch again as soon as I am sure who this additional provision applies to, and I will confirm if we are able to accommodate your daughter in school during this closure period.

All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.

Please note that this is a national closure, so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by text message, notices on our website, on our twitter feed or school Facebook site.

What we will continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn from home. All staff are uploading work onto Show My Homework (SMHK), this will occur on a daily basis for all students at home. Work for each day's lessons will be uploaded by 9.00am. Students can submit completed work on SMHK and this will be marked by teachers and comments sent back to your daughter. Some students have already been provided with revision notes and text books or resource sheets for some subjects.

Transforming



Challenging



Valuing



Empowering



We recommend your daughter follows her school timetable whilst at home on a daily basis, this will help students to work to a structured day and complete the work set by her teachers for each lesson across the week. Students should start work at 9.00am daily and then work through their timetabled lessons.

Students will receive additional messages from staff and from their Heads of Year via SMHK across each week.

Parents can also contact the school via SMHK or by sending an email to subject leads using subject email addresses as listed on our website, or by emailing the 'welcome' email address listed above. Please be aware that many of our staff will be working remotely from home, therefore responses may not be immediate.

Please do not visit the school in person to speak with teachers. The school building will remain closed to all visitors and only a small staff team will be on site daily to support identified students.

What if my child receives free school meals?

If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information explaining if we are able to continue to providing some meals, or vouchers with support from a scheme that the government has just announced. It is unlikely that we will be able to do this immediately; however as soon as we know if any arrangements are being set up across the Local Authority, we will contact parents.

What we will not be able to go ahead with

- Central+ after school activities or the Easter Holiday Central+ events
- School trips and visits
- Breakfast clubs
- Internal exams or tests
- Any planned parent evenings or meetings scheduled to take place

GCSE and A Level Exams

The government stated yesterday that GCSE and A level exams will not take place on the scheduled dates this year. We are strongly advising all our Year 11 and Year 13 students to continue revising, as it is likely there will still be a form of assessment in order for students to be awarded a qualification.

We appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and that you may have concerns. However, we have been instructed by the Government that school closure for the majority of all pupils must take place.

We will continue to keep in touch with all parents with any updates as the situation develops. This will come to you via text messages and all letters will be posted on the school website and twitter / Facebook feeds.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please do not hesitate to do so via the email addresses listed on our website for subject areas and Heads of Years, or via the 'welcome' email address. You can still call the school, however please be aware that we can only have a limited number of staff on site so your call may not be answered immediately.

During these unprecedented circumstances our thoughts are with all our students and their families, we want to see all of our students and their families stay well during this time and want to assure you that we will keep you updated and stay in contact with our parents and our students as much as possible during this closure period.

Please remember: if you or your daughter feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support. We will be in contact with more information when we can, and assure you that we will re-open as soon as we have permission to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Holland', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ms E. Holland
Headteacher