



The de Ferrers Trust

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Please note that such is the speed of events, some of the following might already have changed by the time you read this! But as at 11am today, this is the situation.

We intend that all of our schools will be open as normal today and tomorrow (Friday), unless you have already been told of specific part-closure arrangements from the Principal of your child's school.

We will continue to manage the response to the day to day situation as it unfolds, considering the safety and wellbeing of staff and students. Should the situation change, we will inform parents and carers at the earliest opportunity through the email system and on the website.

From normal school closing time on Friday afternoon, all of our schools will be closed **to the vast majority of students until further notice.**

There are students that we still have to make plans to care for from Monday morning. These are:

- 'vulnerable students' (those with current social worker involvement or who have an Education, Health and Care Plan)
- Children of 'key workers' (at the time of writing, we don't have a definitive list of these occupations yet but we know some, such as NHS workers and Police)

We intend to confirm with you by the end of Friday if your child is in either group and, therefore, will be offered care and education during school hours from Monday.

Following yesterday's briefing from the government, we continue to work on our plans in response.

We will confirm plans for these groups in due course. It is likely that we will require you to complete a short online questionnaire this afternoon to enable us to plan effectively.

We appreciate that parents, carers and students will have questions regarding the news that exams will not go ahead in May and June as per the briefing from the Education Secretary.

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We will share further information regarding this from all appropriate agencies as and when it is shared with us. It is important to note that this is a national concern and the DfE will be working on plans to ensure that students nationwide are not disadvantaged by this international medical crisis.

Whilst we appreciate that you will want answers to your many queries quickly, we ask that you refrain from contacting our schools unless it is a matter of urgency in order to give school leaders the time to plan effectively.

We thank you once again for your continued support, understanding and patience in these challenging times.

Yours faithfully

Ian McNeilly
Chief Executive