

20th March 2020

Re: Coronavirus COVID–19 and School Closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a real sense of sadness that today, the school closed its doors to students. I would like to therefore give an update of what to expect over the coming weeks.

Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Students

Currently no parents, carers or students have indicated that they have a requirement to be in school. If you feel that this type of provision is needed for your child, please contact

enquiries@westminsterUTC.ac.uk as soon as possible.

Free School Meals

Provisions for Free School Meals are still being set up with the intention to provide e-vouchers to eligible students. We will inform you as soon as more information is available.

Online Work & Pastoral Support

Where parents, carers or students have indicated that they do not have regular access to a computer or the internet, work has been provided. For all other students, staff have ensured that remote learning is available online for all students across all subjects. Teachers will expect particular pieces of work to be submitted for marking. Students will receive information on what work this applies to, and how to submit the work. I'm very pleased to see that some work has already been submitted by students. The work, along with other important information and contact details, can be found at:

<https://westminsterutc.sharepoint.com/sites/WestminsterUTC>

This work can also be found by going through the school website (www.westminsterUTC.co.uk) and accessing the coronavirus information page on the student site.

For any problems logging onto the site, please e-mail sirsimonmilton.support@euroele.com.

Form tutors will be contacting students each week, via school e-mails, to check in on their physical and mental wellbeing as well as their academic progress. Please ensure your child responds to these e-mails in a timely manner. Where students do not respond, staff will follow up by calling home.

Where possible, students should download the "Skype for Business" app on their phones and log in with their school credentials. Information on which staff can be contacted through this at any given time during the week is posted on the student site. Students can use this to "call" or "text" their teachers to ask questions or seek support. Students can also still use e-mail as usual.

Exams

As you may be aware some guidance has been released by the government which states they will be using predicted grades and internal assessment data by teachers for exam results.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

We had already anticipated this as an option, and teachers have been working to ensure students get the grades they deserve. As no formal deadlines have been given and no further guidance at present, student must work through the remote learning provided by teachers as well as submitting

any work requested. This will influence decisions on predicted grades, along with all assessment data up until this point. Any outstanding coursework will also need to be submitted to the relevant teachers.

Please do not email staff asking for any predicted grade changes, as it will depend on all completed work up until any new deadlines.

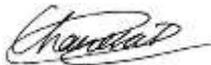
I'm sure you will have many questions and concerns, we will update all of you as soon as we get any further information.

This too shall pass

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students for the calm and mature approach that has been demonstrated so far. They will need to continue being resilient, and with your support, I have no doubt we will get through this together. I would also like to thank all the amazing teachers that have kept the school open to all students, to the final whistle, and stand ready to do whatever more may be asked of them.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the parents and carers, for your continued support with all of the measures we have put in place to maintain the pastoral and educational development of our students. If you yourselves need any further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch. As long as we all support each other, this too shall pass.

Best regards,



Mr. Chandrakumar
Headteacher

From the Department for Education:

From Friday 20 March schools, childcare and other educational settings are closed for everyone except:

- children of critical workers
- vulnerable children

We have published guidance for parents and carers:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Critical workers

If parents' work is critical to the coronavirus response, their children will be prioritised for early years and education provision.

The Government has published a list of critical workers:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>