



much
more than
just a school



19 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

By now you will understand that schools in England will be shut at the end of the school day on Friday.

This closure will have some far-reaching consequences, not least that the summer exam season has been postponed. We would expect to hear more information from Exam Boards over the next few days. We feel desperately sorry for the young people who have worked hard preparing for this May and June. However, the Government have made it clear that students will not be disadvantaged. We will contact you again once this is clear.

The Government has announced that schools will continue to provide for the most vulnerable students (those children with an EHCP and those with a social worker) and those from the families of key workers (NHS, Police, key delivery drivers). A full list of key worker categories will be provided to schools later today. The announcement was short on detail, so it is unclear how this will work in practice. If you believe your child falls into these categories and you require clarification or wish to make a request to access this provision, please can you email info@pcs.hants.sch.uk stating the name of your child and their mentor group.

We now move into a phase of remote teaching and learning. At this time we cannot say how long this will last, however considering the postponement of the Summer exams, we believe this is going to be for a considerable period of time. Setting work online is not without its challenges and the longer this period of closure goes on, the more difficult it will be to track, monitor and assess students. Your support in ensuring that your child engages with the tasks is critical for the success of remote learning.

Please note that there is an expectation that when students are not required to attend school, they will remain in the family home during school hours and will be completing the work that has been set for them.

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Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

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So, for now:

- All staff will set work on-line for each subject by year group. On-line learning access, which students have been shown how to access, will be via:

Student website - this link will ask them to login with their school email address and password:

<https://pcshantssch.sharepoint.com/sites/students>

Microsoft Teams - students will already know if their Teacher is using Teams:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/>

- There is no expectation that staff will personalise work, this is unrealistic given the nature of remote learning and the number of students taught by staff. However, we are aware that at KS4 some staff do allow students to submit work via email and Teams. This will be at the discretion of individual staff.
- IT staff have access to all email accounts and our provider can track the IP address or the origin of communication, this will allow us react if there are any safeguarding concerns. We would be grateful you could reinforce with your child the appropriate email etiquette.
- Keeping in touch with students is going to be important. Mentors will try to email your child each school week. The conversations will be similar to those that they would have during mentor time.

During the school closure period, the Safeguarding Team will continue to support students and families remotely. There is a dedicated email address for parents/carers to use should they have any safeguarding or welfare concerns: safeguarding@pcs.hants.sch.uk

Alternatively, messages can be left by calling 02392 489800. These will be monitored during the school day and someone from the Safeguarding Team will respond. School will continue to liaise with external agency professionals who work with our students to ensure that wherever possible, we are working to support families at this time.

Once the closure is in progress, we will be writing and publishing information on the website on a regular basis: please take time to read this.

We will share information regarding Free School Meals when we have it.

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For many families, we realise, this is a particularly difficult time. We are aware that some of you are under extreme pressure managing the demands of family life and balancing this with the challenges of employment and finance.

We will continue to support all of our students to the best of our ability through this period.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Anders".

Christopher Anders
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ella Capaldi".

Ella Capaldi
Head of School