

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for tomorrow (Friday, 20th March)

The government has confirmed in writing that we will not be going ahead with exams for Years 11 and 13 this summer. This undoubtedly means that controlled assessment (coursework) is likely to be vital in decisions about grading. Therefore, we must prioritise students in Year 11 and Year 13 who are currently producing coursework. We are confident Year 11 and Year 13 are in a good place with what they have done so far but it seems prudent to focus all remaining resource and time towards its completion. We have already begun this today (Thursday) and will do so even more intensively tomorrow. It is imperative that, where possible, students studying the following subjects attend tomorrow:

Year 11	Year 13
Dance*	Product Design
Art	Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
Health and Social Care	Applied Science
Child Development	Interactive Media
Sport Science	Sport Studies
Interactive Media	Health and Social Care
Design and Technology	Art
Engineering	Geography
Food Science and Nutrition	
Music RSL	
Creative Craft	

* the practical assessment will take place, as originally planned, during the day on Friday.

We will offer sessions in these subjects for the duration of tomorrow from Periods 1 to 4. If students study more than one subject we will ask them to prioritise accordingly. Some staff will also be staying after school if students also want to continue their work then.

If students are not able to attend school we would strongly encourage them to contact their teachers via email or Epraise.

If Year 11/13 students study NONE of the above subjects they may come in to school at lunchtime (see below).

We appreciate that this is a really stressful and emotional time for Year 11 and Year 13. They have had the culmination of their school and Sixth Form careers taken away from them and the uncertainty they face is daunting. We are doing our best to reassure them all and will, of course, be on hand to support them in whatever way we can.

To try and make something of their last 'normal' day in school we are doing the following:

At 1.30pm tomorrow Year 13 will have a gathering. The Sixth Form Council members who don't have any coursework to do are busy putting together a leavers' video. The Sixth Form plan to stream it live to those at home. They will leave at approximately 2.30pm but are, of course, welcome to stay and continue with coursework.

At 2pm tomorrow Year 11 will have an hour with their tutors. During this time they will have the chance to share their memories of their time at the High School, sign shirts etc. We are also encouraging them to send photographs and other thoughts to goodnews@droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk so we can make a Year Book for them. Year 11 will leave at 3pm (unless they want to stay to continue working on coursework).

To facilitate this huge upheaval in the timetable (and the increasing number of staff absences) **we will only be open to Years 8, 11 and 13 tomorrow**. We know that it is our duty to continue to allow parents to attend work so if you do have a child in Year 9 for whom the closure would prohibit you or someone in your family attending work in a key position then please send them in to school and we will arrange some supervision accordingly.

Arrangements for Monday onwards – Children of Key Workers

We are expecting a definitive list of Key Worker roles this afternoon. If you fall into this category and you will need your child to come to school please complete the Epraise form (a separate email from Epraise will follow this message).

This will allow us to plan to match demand. If you do not need a space for your child you do NOT need to complete the form.

The students who are in school will work in ICT rooms to do the assignments set by their teachers as if they were at home. In the case of children with EHCPs, support will be given wherever possible. We will be taking extra precautions to make sure these spaces are regularly cleaned and that the number of students in each class is kept to a minimum.

Lunch will be served but the range of options will depend on uptake. There is a place on the form to indicate if your child will bring his/her own lunch.

We only need one response per child. It is not necessary for both parents (if they have logins) to respond. If you cannot access Epraise please contact the school office. We might have to take your details and get back to you but we will work quickly to resolve your issue.

Collecting work

Earlier this week we asked tutors to try to ascertain if students would struggle with distance learning due to a lack of ICT access. There were very few students who reported they wouldn't be able to access work sent electronically and we must aim to work electronically as far as possible. We have been busy this week making up packs for those who will not be able to do this. Parents and students can begin to collect them from Monday. We will share more details of this tomorrow. Please bear with us and allow us to prioritise Year 11 and Year 13 today and tomorrow.

Thanks again for all your support. We are appreciative all your good wishes and hope you are families are coping well. We will write to you again tomorrow with more information.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J M Brook
Deputy Headteacher