

Dear Parent or Carer,

Thank you for all your support and kind words in what has been the most difficult week of my 12 years of headship. Never before has our motto, 'Family for Life' felt so important. Our staff have been amazing, as have the students and it has been so sad to have said goodbye to Year 9 and Year 11 already. Today will no doubt be equally upsetting.

Please find below **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** that we need you to respond to as soon as possible today if relevant to you, as well as some additional updates.

- The government has now released the list of 'Key Workers' for whom we will continue to offer provision for from Monday if required. The list is at the end of this email.
- Please read and IF this is relevant to you AND you require provision, for some or all of next week then please email office@hallmeadschool.com with **KEY WORKER** as the subject line, including in the email the **name and tutor group of your child** and the likely requirement for which days to attend school. **Please try to do this by 1.30 p.m. today** if at all possible. If you cannot email, then please ring the office and pass on the same information. We will be engaging with our vulnerable pupils' families directly.
- For those pupils, we will provide a normal school day and access to a limited catering service (including provision for Free School Meals pupils). Pupils will NOT be required to wear school uniform, but they will be required to abide by the normal school rules and to practise social distancing whilst here as far as possible. Each day will start with registration in the Main Hall at 8.50. The day will mainly be IT based, completing activities that the other students are doing at home. There will be some additional health and fitness sessions and creative activities. **There will not be formal teaching. First Aid and safeguarding arrangements will be in place.**
- **It is important to point out that the government advice clearly states, "If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be."** but we will continue to provide this provision to support the nation's frontline staff for as long as we can, subject to our own staffing profile. Regrettably, this is not a service we can provide for parental convenience as I am sure you will appreciate.
- Families of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals who do not fit the vulnerable or key worker definition will receive information in the next few days outlining how they will be able to receive free lunches and/or meal vouchers during this difficult time.
- For the majority of parents, for whom home schooling is now a reality, we are attaching a guide explaining ideas that will help support this. With regard to printing at home, we are trying to set work that does not require printing as far as possible and will keep this as a focus. Regarding marking and feedback, we are working up solutions to this as fast as possible but students can email teachers their work if and when they wish and there will be increasing numbers of Moodle based assessments and links to subject web packages that enable instant assessment, some of which is sent to the teacher. Feedback may be less regular and in different forms rather than traditional 'marking' due to the restraints of remote working, and keeping the site open.

As you can appreciate, we are dealing with totally uncharted territory but we are doing our best to keep our connections to all of our students and their families throughout this time. I will keep regular emails to parents and tweets throughout these coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Simon London
Headteacher

KEY WORKER LIST

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as



the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.



If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

