



19th March 2020

Corona Virus Community Update 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from my recent communication, I write to update you on the school's situation during this difficult time (again).

- **Yesterday, the Government announced that all schools are to be closed and open only for children of key workers and the most vulnerable.**

Newsome High School, as with all schools nationally, now has the challenge to support this announcement. With this in mind, we will now enter a period of fact-finding and support. We have to determine which parents fall into these categories and provide a form of education accordingly. We have outlined these (as much as we can with the guidance given) in the table below to offer some clarity.

Where both parents are Key Workers	Those that are Vulnerable Groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key workers are people who work within the public sector in roles that are vital to the infrastructure of the community. ● They include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teachers ○ Police Officers ○ Armed Forces Personnel ○ National Health Service (NHS) workers ○ Delivery drivers have also been mentioned ● Please note that there are many other types of key workers and this has not been made entirely clear. This will be carried out through discussion as per vulnerable groups (see right). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Note that for children with medical EHCPs, who have medical needs which would class them as vulnerable to a viral infection - parents/carers are to speak to us as per prior discussions. ● Students who are in care or looked after. ● Other cases that need to be discussed by a member of staff in greater detail. ● Students who are known to and engaging with external agencies (this will also be through discussion with staff.) ● If your child usually receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE ABOVE GROUPS ONLY

Parents, who class themselves in any of the above categories, are to contact us so we can prepare appropriate provision. Please contact the school through the following means by 3pm Friday.

- Email - education@newsomehigh.kirklees.sch.uk
- Phone - 01484516712



We have created a specific guidance document around our online curriculum (E-Learning) and this will be sent out shortly. This will also be on our website homepage.

Please note that there is an understanding of joint responsibility and it must be appreciated that the school and its staff are doing everything within their power to work within the expectations placed upon us. With this in mind, you must exhaust all opportunities in order to provide us with the relevant information using the contacts above if you require support.

I feel a huge duty of care to inform you that 16 members of staff are off in a range of sectors with a number of suspected symptoms. Due to the fact not everyone is tested, I cannot confirm whether these staff have contracted the virus. All these staff members are in isolation either for themselves or for a family member. This is important to note when making any decisions.

From now on, whether you fall into any of the above Key Worker or vulnerable group categories or not, we are here for our community. Feedback says that you are grateful for our daily communication and this will continue. I will personally be sending updates via text and email, ensuring that I and my team are on hand to support in whatever way we can.

Year 11 Students

Please try not to worry. The Government has offered reassurance that you will not be disadvantaged and we will do our utmost to ensure this is the case. You have been an absolute privilege for me and my staff to teach and this will continue until the end of the academic year. What I need from you is to engage with the learning platform we have provided to ensure you are in continued education. This will ensure that the predicted grades that we have recorded (based on your mocks and attitude and commitment to learning) are gained. A separate guidance on your home curriculum can be found by clicking here.

My staff are doing all they possibly can at this unprecedented time. This is not easy and we appreciate your understanding.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Watkin: Headteacher