



Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

5th January 2021

Dear parents, carers and students,

I am writing to you further to the Prime Minister's broadcast yesterday evening. Along with colleagues around the country, we had planned for and looked forward to the return of our Year 11 and Year 13 students next week with other year groups in the week thereafter. We are very disappointed that we will not be able to continue with our face-to-face teaching to all students for the time being. We also recognise that the announcement may have caused worry and anxiety for students especially those preparing for their GCSE and A Level examinations.

Having listened to the PM's speech and read the DfE information published last night I feel it necessary to clarify a few points in this morning's media coverage that might cause confusion.

Schools are not closed. We are open for the children of key workers and vulnerable students and most staff are working from school. The school is still completely focused on our core purpose of teaching and learning.

If you are a critical, key worker and would like your daughter/son to work in school, please log on to the school website and go to the Covid 19 folder in the "Useful Links" menu. Here you will find an updated Key Worker letter (December 2020) and Key Worker Reply Slip. Providing **one** parent is working in one of the designated key sectors, complete the reply slip and return to the school enquiries email address: enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk

Vulnerable children are those children who could benefit from continued full time attendance due to a number of factors.

Please see the Government guidance below for more details.

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

Designated school transport buses are currently running to their normal timetable. However, we have been asked by the County to inform them of levels of bus use and so please check the bus company websites or social media feeds for the most up to date information. Those travelling on privately organised transport and taxis should contact their private provider.

We have moved to remote learning for all other students for the near future. Teachers are working hard to deliver Microsoft Teams lessons and to provide students with all the resources and support they need to continue to make progress. The remote education programme is designed to match the content and provision that students would have received in face-to-face lessons and so it is fully expected that **all students** follow their normal timetable through each day and fully engage with the lessons and other remote learning material provided. Mr Love's letter of 17th December regarding our approach to remote teaching and learning is still on the school website and I should like to reinforce the point that should your daughter/ son be experiencing any difficulties accessing Teams, the VLE, a digital device or the internet, please email enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk in confidence, and a member of staff will contact you. Academic queries should be addressed for the attention of the class teacher or Head of Department and pastoral queries to the form tutor or Head of Year.

The PM indicated that he hoped students would return to face-to-face learning around the February half term. DfE guidance has made it clear that the provision for education will be reviewed every two weeks and if the R rate and hospital numbers are reduced, that we still might have a staggered return this term.

The government has consistently told students, parents and teachers that exams would happen this year. Last night the PM said that *'not all exams will take place as expected.'* He said that as a matter of urgency, the Secretary of State for Education would enter a period of consultation with Ofqual. Year 11 and Year 13 must take on board that for now we have to assume that there will be some form of assessment but that we do not have any detail of what that will be.

It is vital that our Year 11 and Year 13 students keep working hard and keep going. Students **will** be awarded grades this year and these are just as worth continuing to work towards as for the originally planned full examination series. None of the students' ambitions for the future will be affected by this news as long as they keep working as they have been doing all year.

I shall write to Year 11 and Year 13 again when we have more information about the GCSE and A Levels. Our programme of Saturday enrichment sessions for Year 11 will sadly have to be postponed for the time being whilst our students are not in school. All Year 11 and Year 13 students should assume that the planned assessment week (22nd February – 26th February) will go ahead, although is likely to be moved to later in Term 4.

In addition to supporting all students with their remote learning, we continue to plan for the return of students to School and for the implementation of the lateral flow testing for those staff and students on site and for the staggered return of students when directed by the government.

During this period of national lockdown, the school will continue to provide vouchers or food boxes for families in receipt of free school meals. Please contact the school, in confidence, should you need support at this time.

For now, students in all of our year groups need to be on time for their online lessons and participate fully, keep working hard, submit any work that their teachers ask for and most importantly, remember that every piece of work they complete is of value.

As always, we will keep you fully up to date with developments as they occur.

Please take care and stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely



M K Anderson
Headmistress