

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

Following on from our last update, we are now writing to let you know that we have been instructed to close the school to almost all children after this Friday until further notice.

**You will shortly be receiving an email with a link to a questionnaire which will help us identify the children of key workers who will be attending school from next Monday.**

As advised by the government, we will do all we can to stay open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs. We are waiting for the government to publish more information on what this means, but it would help us in the meantime if you could let us know if you think your child may fall into one of these categories and you plan on using this service.

If you cannot access the questionnaire via Parent Mail you can let us know by emailing [info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk](mailto:info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk) with your child's name and form in the subject line and then a brief description of the employment that you as parent work in. We'll be in touch again as soon as we are sure who this does apply to.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you may have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know in the first instance by updates on the school website. We will also continue to use Parent Mail and traditional letters where appropriate. If you have changed your contact address recently please make sure that the school has a record of this.

**What we'll continue doing while your child is at home**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn. Attached to this letter is a presentation containing clear instructions and screen shots to enable your child to log in to the systems and access resources to enable them to work from home.

We have added an area to the school's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) where teachers can upload work for their students, and this can be submitted. If you have no access to ICT at home please can you contact the school office so that we are aware. We can, in a very limited number of cases attempt to send out some paper versions BUT this may prove impossible if insufficient staff are unable to access the school site.

- Expectations for accessing and completing work are the same as would be the case for normal schooling. There will be work available each week to download and complete.
- Should you wish to contact subject teachers you can do this by contacting [info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk](mailto:info@abbey-school-faversham.co.uk) in the first instance and we will direct your correspondence to the right place. Make sure that you write in the subject line which teacher you wish to contact.

The government have also announced that public examinations will not take place in May and June. It is not yet clear whether these will be rescheduled or some other arrangements put in place. This is a considerable blow to our students who have worked so hard this year but, at this stage, we would suggest that homework, assessments and revision continue as examinations may well take place at a later date.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so. And remember: if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, and we will be in touch with more information when we can.

Please keep safe.



Dr Rowland Speller  
Headteacher



Mr Kevin Dickens  
Head of School

Attached: Advice on how to access work on the VLE