



East Dale Road
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theeducationalliance.org.uk

17 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on the situation at Driffield School & Sixth Form, following our letter to you this morning outlining our response to the spread of the Coronavirus and our process for decision making.

We have looked at our current staffing and also what we know about staffing over the next few days.

I reluctantly have to inform you that we will have insufficient staff to be able to open the school safely for all students. From tomorrow, Wednesday 18 March, we will be open for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 and also for students where we have been able to identify that staying at home will require a carer who is a key worker in the health or education system to stay at home too. This arrangement will be in place in the first instance until next Friday 27 March.

Any student who has to stay at home either as a result of government guidance or because of the partial closure of the school will have access to a large bank of online learning. This has been developed by our own staff and is relevant and specific to the curriculum students are following. Information on how to access this platform is attached to this letter. The platform will be live from the morning of Wednesday 18 March.

Today we began the process of identifying which students will need to have access to school because their **primary carer** is a key worker in the health or education systems. The quickest way to do this was by asking the students if their primary carer is any of the following and **would be required to miss work to look after the student**.

- Working in healthcare or social care (e.g. nurses, doctors, paramedics, care workers, midwives, health visitors, social workers, cleaners, caretakers, nursery assistants)
- Staff working in a school – where the school remain open (e.g. teachers, TAs, cleaners, caretakers, lunchtime supervisors)

This approach provides a rough estimate and is not an ideal way of gathering accurate information. Therefore, if you work in any of those areas and **would be required to miss work if your child could not come to school** please let us know as soon as possible by emailing their full name and year group to office@driffieldschool.org.uk so that we can establish registers of who we expect in the morning. Please be aware that students attending under these arrangements will not have access to their full normal timetable. However, we will look after them, ensure they have access to resources, have meals and break times. This is a genuine effort on our part to help relieve some of the burden on the NHS and thus help to protect the most vulnerable people in our society.



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Unfortunately, the government has made no provision for schools to easily support students who are registered to receive free school meals. We are determined that they will not be disadvantaged by this very difficult situation. Therefore we are initiating a temporary and imperfect arrangement. In the absence of support or guidance from the government, our trust board has agreed to underwrite the provision of supermarket vouchers for the purchase of food for those students based on £3 per student per day. Vouchers will be based on a weekly amount of £15 per Free School Meal student. This arrangement will be in place until the Easter break which will give us time to look at other options if required. We will contact parents/carers of those students concerned separately about how this will work.

Over the last few days, we have been struck by the maturity and sensible behaviour of our students. We know however, that many young people are anxious about this really significant situation nationally and internationally. We will continue to reassure them that the measures we are taking do not mean they are at significantly more risk and that medical experts are sure that young people are at the lowest risk of serious symptoms from this virus.

Thank you once again for your support at this difficult time.

Kind regards

Jonny Uttley
CEO

Scott Ratheram
Executive Principal



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