



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

Ref:O/KRParLet/2019-20/softclosure/jsn

18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on our position in regards to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The governors and senior leaders of the school have decided to implement a soft-closure with effect from Thursday 19th March 2020.

We are requesting that all parents and carers keep their children off school unless they absolutely have no alternative option to consider. The school will be open for those children who need to attend, including children of parents and carers who work within the emergency services / healthcare etc. however, there will not be a regular, scheduled time table operating. Pupils will be supervised and have somewhere safe to work independently and we will provide a range of activities where we are able to do so.

Pupils who are staying at home, will be able to access their SAM Learning account and independently select appropriate work to complete. I appreciate that this is not ideal, but it does go some way to ensuring that they can access sufficient resources during this period. As and when circumstances change and if full closure is enforced, then we will look to continue to set structured tasks for our pupils to complete.

This decision has been taken due to the fact that it is increasingly difficult for us to maintain our normal provision due to absences caused as a result of precautionary measures. Pupil attendance is currently operating at just above 60% and this also makes it difficult to maintain our normal educational provision.

These are clearly very challenging times for everyone and no doubt you will have many questions about what happens next, particularly for those with examinations scheduled in the summer. The reality of this is that we do not know what will happen, but nationally, the situation is the same for everyone and we will look to maintain communication as and when necessary.

For any pupil who is entitled to a free school meal, we are working hard with our caterers to ensure that we maintain this provision. Any pupil who is not attending school but is entitled to a lunch, will still be able to come and collect something suitable.

I must advise that whilst this soft closure is in place, all pupils are expected to remain at home and follow government guidelines around social distancing.

I would like to thank you for your understanding at this time, please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Kind regards,

K. Rowlands
Headteacher