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THE HARVEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Cheriton Road Folkestone
Kent CT19 5JY

Headteacher: **Mr S Norman, BA (Hons), NPQH**

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents

As you will undoubtedly now be aware, the school must close after Friday. I can fully appreciate and sympathise with the difficulties this will undoubtedly cause in these challenging times for all. Please read the following information below for clarification on the implications in as many areas as we are currently able to detail.

Closure details

From Monday, the school will be closed to everyone except children of key workers (we are awaiting definitive guidance from the DfE on what constitutes key workers) and vulnerable children who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans. We are aware of our vulnerable children and will contact those parents directly to ascertain if they wish to make use of this facility. Please note that we will only be able to make provision for pupils who fall into these two criteria. There will be no exceptions. Please be considerate and do not put us in a difficult position by asking us to accommodate your child if they do not fulfil the criteria.

Please be aware that those children who do attend will be undertaking similar activities to those of their peers who are working at home. The purpose of the school closure is to minimise contact and therefore we will be providing skeleton staffing to provide supervision and care for pupils who do attend. This means that we will not be running a normal timetable. It is perhaps worth noting that the Secretary of State has been clear that this is an entirely different role for schools and their staff. It is primarily about care, not education.

There has been an indication from the Secretary of State that he would like schools to continue to provide this service to key workers over the upcoming Easter break. We will need to await further details, but if this proves to be the case we will endeavour to do so.

If you believe you fit what is likely to be the government's definitive definition of a key worker and would like to continue to send your son to school, please click on the following link to indicate this through completion of the online form by 8am tomorrow morning (20th March) so we can make appropriate plans.

<https://harveygs.wufoo.com/forms/r42s04p1xktkmp/>

Free School Meals

The most recent DfE advice on this states:

To support children eligible for free school meals, schools will be able to purchase meals or vouchers for supermarkets or local shops.

The government has also confirmed that the total value of vouchers offered to each eligible child per week will exceed the rate it pays to schools for free school meals, recognising that families will not be buying food in bulk and may therefore incur higher costs. The final amounts will be confirmed shortly.

Effective immediately, schools will be able to order vouchers directly from supermarkets or shops in their communities to be emailed or printed and posted to families, and they will have their costs covered by the Department for Education. Guidance for schools will be published shortly.

Tel: **01303 252131**

E-Mail: enquiries@harveygs.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.harveygs.kent.sch.uk



While we await this guidance, we would not want to leave any of our boys in need without provision; therefore during this initial period, if you require support with provision of food, please contact Mrs K Bristow (kbristow@harveygs.kent.sch.uk) and we will make some arrangements with you.

Setting of Work

We will be setting a range of work including extended independent research tasks and project based activities for boys to complete for the period of the normal school term up to the Easter break and will review that approach after the scheduled Easter break should the school remain closed. Boys should log into TALISMAN to access the work set, which will appear in their usual homework routine with guidance on how to access any additional resources should these be required. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee that work will be set in the event of extensive staff illness caused by the spread of the virus. Should work not appear, please do not e-mail staff as the reason is highly likely to be illness. We shall however do our best to ensure all boys have plenty to do to support their learning in what is going to be a difficult period for all.

Setting of Work for Pupils in Y11

In most subjects the course content has been completed and the revision stage has begun. Where this is not the case, we will ask staff to set work so as to ensure boys are ready for A Level study should they choose to go on to study that subject. The vast majority of coursework is already complete and we are spending the final two days of school focussing on completing any still outstanding. Once any set work is complete, we will ask boys to visit the pupil shared area and look for the file named *Sixth Form Induction Tasks*. Here they will find tasks set for the subjects they have chosen for A Level and they should access these and complete them to support their impending transition to A Level study.

Setting of Work for Pupils in Y13

In most subjects the course is now complete but again we will ask staff to set work only when the course has not yet been completed to ensure boys are ready for the transition to university should they be taking that route. Teachers will also be in direct contact with boys via email if there are any outstanding coursework issues to address.

Examination Outcomes for Pupils in Y11 and Y13

At this point there is no specific guidance from the government or examination boards on exactly how these will be awarded. It seems logical to expect completed coursework to be used as one indicator (hence our desire to make this a priority) and that predicted grades that take into account how boys might have performed after intensive revision may also be used. However, the lack of clarity on this will no doubt will be causing our boys (and we parents) great anxiety. Please reassure your son that we will do all we can to ensure they get fair grades awarded by examination boards.

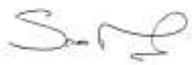
Work Experience and Events

All school events are postponed until such time as we are allowed to reopen fully. We have also taken the decision that planned work experience for Y10 and Y12 will not take place this academic year.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this letter to take in and you may have further questions. The reality is that if we haven't answered that question in this letter, it is likely to mean that we don't know the answer yet, so can I please ask that you think carefully before emailing the school with any specific questions. As and when further detail is released by the government, we will pass that information on and we will stay in contact with you with updates throughout the period of closure.

Normally when approaching a school holiday I would wish you all an enjoyable break, but on this occasion with the break enforced and for an unknown period, that does not feel appropriate. Instead, I will only say that I hope you all stay fit and well and that we can all return to normal life as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Norman
Headteacher