



19 March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

## Coronavirus update

### Friday Closure for nearly all pupils

I am sure you will all have seen the latest announcements about school closures for almost all children after this Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March until further notice. We do not yet know how long these instructions will be in place for, but it is likely to extend beyond our Easter break.

Arrangements for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

- Registration from 8.40am as normal followed by periods 1-3.
- Lessons will end at 1200 followed by form time in order to clear out lockers etc. and gather required exercise books.
- 1220 – home time. Pupils may go straight home OR access school canteen for lunch (a reduced menu will be available).

Homeworking

Guidelines have been sent today on a separate email which detail how North Cestrian will continue to provide education for those pupils who are able to work from home.

### Children of key workers, vulnerable children

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. However, teachers and support staff have the same concerns at this time as the rest of the population and consequently, please understand that school provision will have to be severely restricted by staff availability.

***We expect the vast majority of parents will follow Government advice for their families to maintain social distancing at home.***

For children of key workers and for pupils with certain needs (e.g. EHCP) where there is significant need to remain in school, the following provision is in place:

- Supported lessons will run from 0930 to 1500 each normal school day
- Lessons will run as multi-age classes
- Work will follow the same pattern as the work that has been sent to those working from home
- Teachers will be on hand to support, but we cannot guarantee specialist teachers each session
- Limited catering will be available, the viability of this is dictated by pupil numbers. We will let you know as soon as numbers are known
- School will remain open until 1630 with limited supervision

In order to manage this provision a number of strict conditions apply:



# NORTH CESTRIAN SCHOOL

DUNHAM ROAD, ALTRINCHAM

CHESHIRE, WA14 4AJ

Headmaster: L R Bergin

Telephone: 0161-928-1856

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Email: [office@northcestrian.co.uk](mailto:office@northcestrian.co.uk)

Web: [www.northcestrian.co.uk](http://www.northcestrian.co.uk)

1. For safeguarding and staff allocation reasons it is vital that we know which pupils will be in attendance each week of school closure. We cannot accept pupils on an ad hoc basis. For this purpose, for those children of key workers, or for pupils with certain needs (e.g. EHCP) and there is a significant need for them to stay in school, their attendance must be agreed **in advance** on a week by week basis. Parents will need to inform us in the usual manner if their child will not be attending during the agreed week(s).

a. All parents will be sent an email with instructions as to how they must inform school of their child's planned attendance ONLY for those children of key workers, or for pupils with certain needs (e.g. EHCP) and there is a significant need for them to stay in school. This must be received by school by 1600 on the Friday before the Monday school week start. This is to allow us to allocate staff in a timely manner

b. A new email must be sent for each week of school closure (by 4pm each Friday) to [covid@northcestrian.co.uk](mailto:covid@northcestrian.co.uk) confirm this by copying the below information into an email:

## **KEY WORKER PUPIL ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATION:**

Pupil Name: -----

Form: -----

Parent Name(s) -----

Occupation: -----

I would like my child to attend North Cestrian School W/C (e.g.) Monday 23 March...

I agree to notify school in advance if my child **will not** be attending school during closure recommendations.

- Pupils must attend school in normal school uniform
- School's high standards of behaviour expectation will still apply
- If we feel this provision is being abused, we will send pupils home
- If we struggle to staff the provision, we will have to send pupils home

## **All other children will need to stay at home; do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure – as you will have heard in the news – so while it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by Parentmail and our website

## **What we will 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. Separate guidance will be sent indicating how this will be provided.



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If your child usually receives free school meals we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.

### **What is happening regarding Year 9 and Year 11 public exams?**

The current round of public examinations has been cancelled. We are very sympathetic to the pupils especially in Year 11 who have studied hard in preparation. We await to hear from the exam authorities as to how they plan to proceed in terms of awarding grades, future assessments if any, access to colleges and so on. See also the separate email regarding the impact on current Year 10.

### **What won't be able to go ahead?**

- Breakfast club
- After-school clubs
- Fixtures

We will keep you informed over the situation with school trips on a trip by trip basis.

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience with 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 is far from ideal, but we will 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 via:

[covid@northcestrian.co.uk](mailto:covid@northcestrian.co.uk)

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.

Yours sincerely

**Lee Bergin**  
Headmaster