



NORTH CESTRIAN SCHOOL

DUNHAM ROAD, ALTRINCHAM
CHESHIRE, WA14 4AJ

Headmaster: L R Bergin

Telephone: 0161-928-1856

Fax: 0161-929-8657

Email: office@northcestrian.co.uk

Web: www.northcestrian.co.uk

4th January 2020

Dear parents/carers,

No doubt you will have listened to the Prime Minister's announcement this evening concerning, sadly, a renewal of national lockdown and the closure of schools. At first reading this looks likely to be until February half-term. This cannot have been an easy decision and the rising number of cases and too high number of deaths must be remembered that lie behind this move. The prime minister re-iterated his frustration of having to close schools as they are so important for the well-being and development of children. I know that all staff at North Cestrian will do their level best to educate our pupils. The Chair of Governors, Mr Bamford, was keen to acknowledge the efforts made to date and was confident that we would all pull together to support each other and our students.

Please note the following:

- School is open only for children of key workers and vulnerable/EHCP pupils. Existing places will be continued during the lockdown. Pupils should attend school from 0830 sharp. They will be in discrete bubble groups in the IT rooms, supervised by members of staff. School will provide headphones so pupils can work through their lessons. They should log in to TEAMS lessons and use ClassCharts following their normal timetable. There will be no assemblies, form times or 'Language for Winning' lessons. Pupils should bring packed lunches and wear school uniform. A register will be taken.
 - o If your child cannot attend, or you wish to withdraw for now an allocated place, please email covid@northcestrian.co.uk giving us reasonable notice.
 - o Provision of places is limited: school needs to keep staffing levels of these groups as low as possible so that remote teaching of the rest of school can take place. However, if as key worker you feel you need to send your child to school please email covid@northcestrian.co.uk. Equally, do contact school on the same email if you have welfare concerns for your child.
- For the rest of the school, lessons will be via remote learning. Lessons will follow the normal timetable, except for assemblies, form times and 'Language for Winning' lessons. They should log-in on TEAMS lessons and use Classcharts. Lessons will commence at 0835 sharp. Registers will be taken. Correct protocols for remote lessons must be followed.
- As the prime minister announced, he will be speaking to Ofqual, the exams regulator shortly. It is likely that some change to public exams will be in place, possibly using Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs). For Year 11 in particular, it is vital that they maintain their work ethic. School assessments will play an even bigger part in determining GCSE awards. School will provide opportunities for more examinations under controlled conditions to provide evidence of realistic estimated grades.



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- We believe that BTEC and vocational exams imminently to be taken will still proceed, despite the lockdown, but we are awaiting confirmation and details will be sent accordingly.

As always, I am grateful to and proud of all the staff at North Cestrian who have steadfastly coped with all the changes during the last nine months. I am very conscious that they too have families dealing with the pressures of Covid, they too have to deal with the daily strictures of tiers and lockdown. Despite this, they will deliver quality lessons under difficult circumstances. I am aware that for parents too these times are very challenging, but I should be grateful if you would support your children in attending on-line lessons punctually and seriously. Please contact your child's form teacher to see if we can help.

Once again, thank you for your patience and forbearance

Yours sincerely,

L Bergin
Headmaster