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Cottingham High School  
and Sixth Form College



19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you further on Cottingham High School's response to the spread of Coronavirus. As you will be aware, the UK government made the decision to close all schools for the majority of children from Friday afternoon (20/03/2020).

The government also made it clear that schools would remain open for children of key workers who need support with child care arrangements. At the moment, indications are that these include the following: NHS staff, including ambulance / paramedic staff, the police, the fire service, teachers and food delivery drivers. We have begun the process of identifying which students will need to have access to school because their primary carer is a key worker in the health, emergency services or education systems. If you work in any of these areas and would be required to miss work if your child could not come into school, please let us know as soon as possible by filling in the Survey Monkey that has been sent to you, so that we can establish registers of which students we are to expect in school. 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 emergency services and thus help to protect the most vulnerable people in our society.

Should the government add other professions and job roles to their published key worker list and your profession is included, please let us know if you need support. We are also determined to do what we can to ensure that any student entitled to free school meals can continue to access this entitlement. Arrangements for this will follow as soon as possible.

We are aware that we have some very vulnerable students in our school community and have therefore allocated a key member of staff to liaise with parents/carers about the wellbeing of these students during the period of school closure. Should parents/carers have concerns about the wellbeing or safeguarding of their children during the period of school closure, please relay these to the key contact allocated to you, or access our website where you will find some useful advice and helpline information.

I understand that this will be a great concern for you all but I wish to reassure you that we have done everything that we can to ensure that your child's learning can continue. All our students will have access to a large bank of online learning. They are aware of this and have been given clear advice and guidance about accessing this on-line learning through our assembly and tutor-time programme. Information for parents and carers about how to access these platforms will be uploaded onto our Cottingham High School website under the Information section later on today.

All forthcoming events have been cancelled until further notice, including the Y11 and Y13 proms. We will look to re-schedule these events when the social gathering ban has been lifted.

We will continue to keep you informed with the latest information as we receive it. Our website will be kept up-to-date and we will continue to communicate with you through social media and email.

Thank you for your support at this difficult time in these unprecedented circumstances. Please take care and look after your close ones and vulnerable neighbours.

Yours faithfully

Loz Wilson  
Headteacher

