



Thursday 19 March, 2020

School Closures

Parents and carers will be aware of the government's announcement yesterday that all schools in England will close from Monday 23 March onwards.

The closure of all schools will apply to most pupils, but the government has instructed schools to remain open and to provide provision for pupils whose parents are key workers (currently defined as NHS staff, police and delivery drivers, but potentially updated tomorrow) and to vulnerable children (currently defined as those who have a social worker and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan. This definition may also be updated).

Arrangements this week

As a result, Embrace schools are open to all pupils on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March (with the exception of Brockington College, which is currently closed to Year 8 and Year 9 pupils on Thursday 19 March).

Who should attend after this week?

From Monday 23 March onwards, all Embrace schools will remain open to these two categories of pupils only. If your child has one parent who is a key worker under the above definition, we appreciate that you may wish to make other arrangements for their care, for example another parent may be available. For safeguarding reasons however, we would appreciate it if parents/carers of any pupil that will be attending school from Monday 23 March onwards, would contact their school before the weekend to confirm that their child will be attending.

GCSEs/SATs

You may also be aware that all school examinations for Year 11 pupils and SATs for primary pupils have been cancelled. There is reassurance for Year 11 pupils, that qualifications will be provided in relation to their school performance (no details yet), but that there may be the option for pupils to sit examinations in September, if they feel that their grade is not a fair reflection of their ability.

Work at home for pupils

For pupils that will not be attending school, each individual school will be providing work to be completed at home throughout the period of absence. Schools will contact parents/carers independently on this matter. It is essential that your child continues to learn at home during what may be a lengthy period of time, as there will be an impact on their progress compared to others should their education not continue at home. We appreciate the difficulty that this presents for parents/carers and will do our best to support you once this period commences.

Further information

We have provided all the information that is currently available to us and will attempt to update when possible. Other than urgent calls on Thursday 19 March, please do not contact schools, as they are extremely busy and under-staffed and need to continue to plan arrangements for home education and for those pupils that will be attending school from Monday onwards.

These are indeed challenging times for all of us and it is important that we all adhere to government advice, whilst demonstrating the resilience to overcome that our children need to see from us. We wish you all the very best in this respect.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Southall'.

Chris Southall
Trust Leader