



LV/NE

Headteacher: Louise Voden

19/3/20

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: School closure effective 3.15pm Friday 20th March 2020

Further to my letter to you yesterday, the Government has announced that schools will close their doors this Friday until further notice. We all understand the reasons why this is necessary for infection control, but we do not underestimate how unsettling this is for all families, especially our Year 11 and 13 students who have also learned that they will not sit their exams in May and June. We are absolutely gutted for the young people, who have worked so hard. We will await further guidance from the government as to what will happen regarding exams and we would ask that students try not to worry about 6th Form, college or university places at this stage. We have held assemblies with all Year groups today to reassure the students and inform them of arrangements. We have also emphasised to our examination students the importance of staying motivated, focused and continuing with their excellent work ethic to study and prepare for exams, which may well be only moved on by a month or so. It is imperative that Year 11 and 13 students continue with all the work set whilst we wait to find out how they will be accredited.

It is with great regret that from 3.15pm on Friday 20th March, the school will be closed to students until further notice. This includes the cancellation of all GCSE/A Level Easter Intervention classes that were planned. The **only** exception is for children of Key workers in **Years 7 and 8**. Key workers have been defined as:

- Medical, nursing and paramedic / ambulance staff
- Workers in Adult Social Care, Social Workers and Teachers
- Health Care Assistants and Administrators (in GP practices / Clinics)
- Childminders (Certificate of Registration will be required as evidence)
- Nursery Staff (Private, voluntary and independent)
- Fire and Police
- Supermarket delivery drivers

If you are a Key worker and a parent of a Year 7 or 8 child with no other form of childcare during the school closure, **please inform us by 12.00 on Friday 20th March** if you wish your child to be in school so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Please note that **workplace IDs will be required** to be produced as evidence; it is preferable that these are emailed as an attachment (a photo will suffice) or if you wish to come in person to school to present this, please ensure you do so **by the end of the school day on Friday**. Please of course do not come to the school in person if you have any symptoms of the virus.

In addition, we will be contacting the parents/carers/social workers of all our vulnerable/at risk children and those with EHCPs, to ascertain whether they would benefit from being in school as opposed to studying at home. Individual families will be contacted by our Student Support team today to discuss this. We are still awaiting guidance from the Local Authority as to how we can support families whose children are in receipt of free school meals, and will write separately to those families when we can give some concrete information.



NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

We will be asking students to follow their usual timetable from home, with a full day's learning activities accessible from Show My Homework each morning. Following the usual school timetable will hopefully provide a structure to the day, and as much continuity as is possible in the situation. Many of the activities will direct students to resources available on our G-suite site or on Google classrooms. One of these will be a daily fitness activity, which we would encourage all students to participate in. Please note that homework is suspended at this time and so long as children complete the on-line learning activities each day, they should be able to maintain their progress.

In order to help you manage and monitor your child's work, you should have your own log on to the Show My Homework site. If this is not the case please contact the school at homework@nowerhill.harrow.sch.uk and we will reply with your log on details. This address can also be used during the period of the closure if you wish to seek further help or guidance about work that has been set for your child.

With regards to the pastoral care of the students, the children's Year Coordinators and Curriculum Leaders will continue to be available to liaise and advise on any matters relevant to your child's home learning. Should you have any such queries or if you would like to share information regarding your child's wellbeing, please email admin@nowerhill.harrow.sch.uk and we will direct your enquiry to the most appropriate person.

We are mindful of our students who receive support in school for their wellbeing, either through coaching or mentoring from a member of staff, through sessions in the Daffon Centre or who have individual counselling with our school counsellor. Clearly it will not be possible to continue with this level of support during the school closure. However, it would be helpful for the Year Coordinator to be kept updated should there be any developments which we would need to prepare for upon our return to school. As previously, please alert us via admin@nowerhill.harrow.sch.uk, making the name of your child and their Year Coordinator clear.

For those students who receive support from professionals at Harrow Children's Services, we have been reassured that this support will continue and we will also be in touch to conduct welfare checks via email or telephone. We will also continue to liaise with our linked professionals during the period of school closure.

Safeguarding continues to remain a priority for all involved in the care of children and for us as a school. Should you become aware of a concern during the time of the school closure with regard to the welfare of a child who may be exposed to any form of harm, whether that be maltreatment, or knowledge that they do not have adequate provision of safe and effective care, please contact the Harrow Child's Access Team, using the **Golden Number: 0208 901 2690**

With regards to the support and care of our SEN students, the Inclusion teachers and SENCo will continue to be available to liaise and advise on any matters relevant to your child's learning needs, and issues regarding their home learning in support groups and on line interventions. Should you have any such queries or if you would like to share information regarding your child's SEN needs during these challenging times please do email admin@nowerhill.harrow.sch.uk and we will direct your enquiry to the most appropriate person.

Students who are in Curriculum Enrichment and Support for Learning also have access to Achieve 3000. All students doing Renaissance Reading or Renaissance Maths should continue to log on and take their intervention time. Annual Reviews will be postponed until we are fully functioning again; thank you for your patience and we want to reassure you that the reviews will take place once school returns to normal.

We have shared a social story about the coronavirus and how to cope with the current situation with some of our most vulnerable learners. Social stories are a visual way of helping students to understand complex situations. You can find a copy of this on the SEND pages of the school's website.



NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL

We do not know at present how long school closures will last for and will be reviewing our plans in the second week of the Easter holidays to make a decision as to how we will continue to support learning when the new term begins on the 20th April. We will keep you informed as to next steps once we receive further guidance from the government. We know how difficult it is for families in times of such uncertainty and anxiety and will endeavour to keep you as informed as possible during this time. The Nower Hill community is a strong and supportive one and together, we *will* get through this difficult time and come out the other side. My thanks again to all our wonderful staff, parents, carers and of course the children for their support and resilience.

With very best wishes from all at Nower Hill and please, keep well.

LOUISE VODEN
Headteacher