



22th May 2020

Dear Parents,

Update on the school closure and key information for parents

I hope this letter finds you and your family well in these testing times.

Return to school

You have probably seen the news about the return of schools following last week's Prime Ministerial address. Although there were some details about a return for secondary students (currently **only** Years 10 and 12) and some clarity around the emerging roadmap for schools reopening, we are still looking at the Government advice and guidance, more of which is expected. Whilst we are looking forward to returning to some sort of normality, we will only return to school when it is safe to do so. The Government will be reporting on their 5 tests on Thursday 28th May and we will contact parents early in the new half term about our plans for reopening.

To help us plan for return, we would be grateful if parents of Years 10 and 12 would complete a short survey: <https://forms.gle/q6mL6VzhaWHjDS399>

Home learning

As a school community I have been really pleased in how we have responded to the current situation. Thank you to all our students who, on the whole, have embraced online learning and have shown great resilience and understanding at this time. Thank you also to our staff who are working hard to plan lessons and stay connected with students, and of course to you as parents for all your vital support. I know it is not always easy – all families will have different circumstances and pressures to deal with and of course some of you will be personally affected by the crisis we are living through.

We are continually reviewing our home learning provision to enable optimum learning for students and to support our staff, many of whom are juggling home learning with their own children and worried about their own personal circumstances, friends and families.

Concern about any young person

All students have been provided with wellbeing bulletins (copies on our website). They have useful addresses, advice and contacts for young people. If you, however, are concerned about a child you can ring Brent's Family Front door 9am-5pm 0208 937 4300. Outside of these hours in an emergency call, 0208 863 5250.

Young Minds also have a parent helpline and an email service that can be accessed any time: 0808 802 5544, <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-helpline/>

Domestic Abuse

We know that this period has seen a worrying increase in domestic violence and abuse. This Home Office document has useful links on the last page:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse>

Helplines that can provide you with confidential support and advice:

- National Helpline 24-hours: call free on 0808 2000 247; or
- National Stalking Helpline: call free on 0808 802 0330

If you, or someone you know, is in immediate danger call 999. If you're unable to talk aloud, you can make a silent call to the police by dialling 999 and pressing 55 when prompted to do so. If you do not fear for your immediate safety, you can report abuse by calling 101 or visiting bit.ly/report-domestic-abuse

Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired - in case of an emergency, call the 999 textphone on 18000. You can also text 999 if you've pre-registered for the Emergency SMS service on bit.ly/emergency-sms. In non-emergencies or for general advice you can call the police's non-emergency textphone number: 18001 101.

Support for families facing hardship

Brent have a useful link that has all the numbers for support for families from food help, housing, bereavement etc with all the relevant contacts: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/coronavirus/emergency-support/>. There is a relatively easy website for parents to see if their child eligible for free school meals with the form to apply at:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. Those wanting information about food banks across Brent can find it: <https://brent.foodbank.org.uk/>

Many families will be coming to the end of Ramadan this weekend. We would like to say Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating.

Once again thank you for all your support in this difficult and stressful time. I hope that you and your family are well and offer our thoughts and prayers for all those in our community affected by this pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Thomas
Headteacher