

Dear Parents / Carers,

I trust you are well and remain symptomatic free.

Reduced provision from next week

I am urgently working with Senior Leaders and admin staff to work out our response to the Education Secretary's statement on Wednesday in which, despite nationwide school closures, 'some' are being asked to remain open for at least some students. We are currently exploring exactly which students we will be offering reduced provision to and what this would look like. We need to consider what we are able to arrange given the current staffing challenges and ensuring we keep those students at school safe. Almost certainly it will not be an offer for every student, every day. Whatever we offer it clearly will not be 'business as usual' – all expectations regarding educational provision have been lifted. It will not have the usual focus on teaching & learning but rather be about providing a 'safe haven' for children of key workers and those identified as 'vulnerable'. At this point of time the Government, Local Authorities and Schools are in dialogue about whether this includes every child with an EHCP or not. We are also trying to clarify the implications for our 6th Form students (the announcement said that 'colleges' were to close).

We are also considering how we will continue our offer throughout the Easter holiday, as requested and for those who feel they need it. We are planning to have some idea (albeit in 'draft') of the scale and scope of future provision at Carwarden by Monday afternoon. Our plan will look at what we can organise: i) in the last few weeks of this term ii) over the Easter break and iii) in the longer term (i.e. into the summer term).

We continue to scrutinise the Government advice and guidance on self-isolation / social distancing for those who are medically particularly vulnerable. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

To offer the best possible chance of keeping all members of our community safe, we are strongly recommending that students with conditions on this list DO NOT attend school and follow advice on social distancing for the time being.

Specifically our recommendation extends to:

- any student instructed to get a flu jab each year
- students with long term respiratory diseases such as asthma / bronchitis (this would include those who are prone to frequent and serious chest or other infections requiring medication)
- students with heart conditions
- students with diabetes
- students whose immune systems are suppressed / compromised

- students who are seriously overweight (BMI in excess of 40)

Whilst individuals with Down Syndrome are not specifically mentioned, we believe that many, if not all, our Down students fall into this particularly vulnerable group and therefore should not attend school. We are less clear whether students with epilepsy are particularly vulnerable. If your child has this condition, please confirm their status with the medical professionals involved in their care.

Please contact me direct with any questions in relation to this recommendation at tim.stokes@carwarden.surrey.sch.uk and to confirm you will be keeping your child off school if they are in the vulnerable group.

Some of you may decide to keep your child off school, even if they are not in the group identified as particularly vulnerable. We fully understand that there may be a variety of very good reasons for doing this (e.g. you live with or look after others who are particularly vulnerable). We will support and respect your decision to do so and thank you to those who have already confirmed with me they are doing this.

Please confirm with me ASAP if you have decided to keep your child at home (even if they do not fall into the particularly vulnerable group).

Key Worker Status

Wherever possible, our reduced provision will be offered to children of parents of those recognised as 'key workers'. Priority will be given to families where both parents are key workers. Despite promises, the Cabinet Office is yet to define precisely who is a key worker. At this time we believe it includes anyone working for:

- National Health Service
- Armed forces
- Teachers and childcare staff
- Care home workers
- Social workers
- Police officers, community support, civilian staff
- Prison officer or other probation staff
- Firefighters
- Local authority planners
- Environmental health officers
- Highway Agency traffic officers

Could I ask that you confirm with me ASAP that, to the best of your knowledge, you qualify as a 'key worker'? Please indicate whether both parents are 'key workers' or if you are a single carer with a key worker role.

Wellbeing & Positive Mental Health

Please be assured that we are looking very carefully at how we look after student and staff health and wellbeing during times of exceptionally stress. Deborah Proudfoot will be coordinating our response in this respect.

Home Learning

One strand we are working on is how we continue to support your child's learning at home – whether it is through full/partial school closure or because individuals are self-isolating / social distancing. I have delegated this responsibility to our Middle Leaders.

- Emma Batley-Hammond takes responsibility for coordinating learning resources for KS5
- Cherry Andrews takes responsibility for coordinating learning resources for KS4
- Karen Packham takes responsibility for coordinating learning resources for KS3
- Maria Ramsey takes responsibility for coordinating generic learning resources (appropriate for all students and/or parents). In addition, Maria will co-ordinate the distribution of hard copy learning resources to students who don't have the appropriate IT at home.

They will be a named point of contact for parents in relation to the home learning for the specific Key Stage for their child.

Support for students who qualify for free school meals

The Government have said they will introduce a National Voucher Scheme in the near future. In the meantime we are urgently considering the best way to ensure that families who require it, receive the financial support they need. It is my intention to make funds available from next week.

Telephone contact

We appreciate that emailing may not always be your preferred method of communicating with us – sometimes you just want to talk to someone! It is my intention to provide you with a dedicated mobile number in the very near future so you can contact me directly. This will particularly important if you have any safeguarding concerns.

I'm sorry if I appear to be 'swamping' you with information. I feel it is important that I share everything I can about the developing situation in a timely fashion.

Kind regards and stay safe,

Tim

T S Stokes
Headteacher