



# ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SCHOOL



19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for all your support and understanding in these truly unprecedented times, as we take steps to ensure everyone remains safe and we respond to the updated government advice on Coronavirus.

We appreciate that yesterday's announcement from the government to close schools and cancel examinations will lead to much anxiety amongst students and yourselves but we will do our best to make sure students' education continues throughout this period with your support and keep you informed with any necessary information as the situation develops.

In regard to future arrangements, only Years 7, 10 and 12 are to attend school tomorrow and we will brief them on how they should study at home. It is also important that students take home all their belongings from school at the end of the day, so that we can ensure all areas are kept thoroughly cleaned. If students from Years 8 and 9 have any items still in school, they may collect them between 3.00pm and 3.30pm tomorrow.

From Monday 23 March the school will then be closed for the majority of students until further notice, remaining open only for students currently supported by a social worker or an EHCP (Education, Health & Care Plan) or whose parents are key workers.

In order to help us put provisions in place for the students within these categories who will be attending school from Monday, we would ask that parents whose professions are considered to be a key worker, and who will be continuing to send their child to school from Monday, please contact their child's House Office by phone by tomorrow morning. In line with government advice, we can only offer provision for children of parents whose occupations are identified on the government list of key workers.

Students attending from Monday will not follow a standard timetable of taught lessons, rather they will be supported with the independent work set for all students via Show My Homework (SMHW), from 8.40am - 3.20pm Monday to Thursday and 8.40am – 3.00pm on Friday. We will endeavour to introduce opportunities for group activities and exercise during each week but these will be reviewed in light of student numbers.

There will be no catering facilities available, so students will be required to bring their own packed lunch. The government has suggested that vouchers will be available to parents of students who are entitled to free school meals throughout the closure period, but we are awaiting further details on this and will contact relevant families when more information becomes available.

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Whilst school is closed, work will be set on Show My Homework (SMHW). Our expectations are that students:

- Take responsibility for their own learning;
- Check SMHW and their school emails daily for notifications, instructions and feedback;
- Spend a minimum of 3 to 4 hours a day on lesson activities and tasks set by their teachers;
- Complete all tasks on paper or online as required and meet any deadlines given;
- Engage in any other learning activities their teachers have prepared, including extended tasks;
- Read for a minimum of 30 minutes a day;
- Apply the transferrable skills they have developed and be resilient and resourceful;
- Show us what they can achieve!

It is important that we all remain as active as possible through the coming weeks, so we will also be posting suggestions on SMHW from our PE team of ways in which students can continue to exercise.

For your information, students at St Bart's have access to install Microsoft Office on up to 5 personal devices and this resource would be helpful to students in this period. Instructions for this access are attached for you to install, if you do not already have it.

Lastly, please can I encourage everyone to remain safe and take care of themselves in the coming weeks. On the website we will be putting contact information of organisations that may be able to support young people if they become anxious over this period.

Yours faithfully

Ms J Mortimore  
Headteacher