



18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has today been announced, by the government, that schools in England are to close at the end of the day on **Friday 20 March 2020**.

We are thankful that we have been able to remain open for all year groups and hope (depending on staff absence) to continue to do so, until the point of school closure on Friday.

The government has advised staying open for vulnerable students (with social workers and Education Health and Care Plans) and students who have key workers as parents (see the attachment for the list of key workers). In the morning, I will be sending out a link to a questionnaire that I ask you complete with urgency. This information will help us plan our education provision going forwards.

We will have held assemblies for all groups by the end of the day tomorrow, in order to remind students of the learning platforms that are available to them. In addition, a summary document will be shared with students, parents and carers, which will highlight the topics and tasks assigned to each year group, in order to help you to support/monitor your child's learning at home. Students that do not have computer/internet access at home have been issued with learning packs. If your child has not received this by the end of the day Thursday, please email the school.

The platforms available to students, can be found on the right hand side of our dedicated page on our school website: <http://www.harrogatehighschool.co.uk/parents-carers/coronavirus-updated-advice/> GCSE Pod is available to Years 10 and 11. If your child is unable to log on to any of the platforms, please contact the school.

The government has confirmed that assessments and exams **will not** take place this academic year and that they will work with the sector and Ofqual to ensure that students get the qualifications that they deserve. We will update you when we receive further information.

We are currently working with our catering company, in the hope that we can provide food for our students who access free school meals. We will confirm any arrangements in the coming days.

Attached is a list of services and support available to families at this challenging time.

Finally, you will find all information and updates on our school website www.harrogatehighschool.co.uk

I wish you and your family all the very best in the challenging times ahead.





Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Clarke
Head of Academy

List of key workers:

- Clinical staff employed by the NHS (excluding doctors and dentists)
- Teachers, including further education teachers and Early Years/nursery teachers
- Police officers and community support officers in specialised forces
- Frontline police staff (civilians) may also be eligible in some areas
- Prison officers and some prison service staff
- Probation officers (senior or not), for immediate rent only, trainee probation officers
- Local authority or NHS workers
- Uniformed staff in fire and rescue service
- Connexions personal advisors
- Armed forces personnel
- Highway Agency traffic officer staff
- LA environmental health officers/practitioners.

Services available to families:

Food bank

You can get food bank vouchers for free from schools, your GP and local Children's Centres. Food parcels can be picked up from the following centres:

- <https://harrogatedistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>
- Life Destiny Church, 93b High Street, Starbeck, HG2 7LH
- Mowbray Community Church, Westmoreland Street, Harrogate, HG1 5AT
- Holy Trinity Church, Briggate, Knaresborough, HG5 8BQ
- St Peter's Church Harrogate offer food parcels – they are available from 4:45pm every day, except for Sundays, when it's 5:30 pm

Free meals

- St Peter's Church Harrogate offers The Breakfast Club and provides a free, hot breakfast from Monday to Saturday (8:15 – 8:45 am).





In crisis

If you feel in immediate threat call 999 and ask for the Police

If you have a medical emergency call 999 and ask for the Ambulance service

Concerns over a child or vulnerable adults wellbeing or safety – call North Yorkshire Customer Resolutions Centre on 01609 780780

Health advice

If you are concerned about your families' health see www.nhs.uk or call your GP or NHS 111

Activities with your children if you are self-isolating:

<https://harrogate.mumbler.co.uk/>

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

Stray FM for local ideas and advice <https://www.strayfm.com/>

School work:

Please see the dedicated page on our website : <http://www.harrogatehighschool.co.uk/parents-carers/coronavirus-updated-advice/>

Other Support:

Citizens' Advice - <https://cachd.org.uk/>

Harrogate Volunteer Service Where to Turn Directory <https://harcvs.org.uk/wheretoturn>

Harrogate Easier Living Project (HELP) if you need practical help while self-isolating -

<http://www.helpharrogate.org.uk/>

If you must self-isolate as a family, it may put additional pressures on family members as well as affecting family members' mental health and wellbeing. Please see below helpful links and resources:

<https://harrogate.mumbler.co.uk/>

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Keeping safe online - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

If things get tricky at home

- If tempers run high at home, have a pre agreed plan of ways to calm down, whether that's a time out, visiting a friend, relative or family member;
- If there is a threat of physical violence at home please call 999 for immediate assistance;
- If you feel threatened or intimidated at home you can call IDAS the Independent Domestic Abuse Service for more advice <https://www.idas.org.uk/>

