



20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by thanking you all for your understanding and support in these challenging times. A strong stream of communication is vital in these circumstances and I will be contacting you regularly with updates in order that you have as much information as I do and as soon as I do. I would also encourage you to keep in contact with the school if there are any queries or you need to provide us with additional information. To do this please use [pcs-enquiries@swale.at](mailto:pcs-enquiries@swale.at).

I wanted to write to you today to update on the partial closure as of 3pm on Friday 20th March. Below is the most recent information that we have been provided with in regards to the latest Government updates and support that we will continue to provide for our community.

A key priority for us has been to deal with the immediate disruption to students' learning and to provide a sustainable home learning curriculum that all of our students can access. We will also continue to provide an education in school for some students. This support will be provided for the children of key workers and vulnerable students, providing that they are well and that no one in the household is self-isolating. We will be open from Monday 23rd March 2020, in order to allow key workers to carry out their work. These families will be notified by the school that they are able to attend and the times school will be open.

The students will have a temporary timetable to follow, whilst they are here, which will involve all school subjects.

All other students will be expected to complete the work set on line and staff will be checking, marking and setting more work as the weeks progress.

Schools have also been asked to provide meals from Monday for any students who claim free school meals. I will be writing to parents and carers separately about this but please be assured that if you would like your child to receive a meal we will be making provision for them.

### **Whilst at home**

All PCS students will be set work using Show My Homework and Google classroom. This work will be set by teachers for the students during their normal timetable slot. This work will be monitored and marked by teachers, and students will receive feedback. Any students that are failing to complete the online work provided will be contacted by a member of staff and offered support. There is a wide range of additional online resources that are available to parents in order to support students learning, including from the BBC.

### **Year 11 Exams**

Our year 11 students have been working extremely hard this year, improving week on week and they were beginning to see real progress in their grades. Many students are rightly disappointed and upset about the cancellation of exams and we have been talking with them to help them through this difficult time. We are exceptionally proud of everything our young people have achieved.

The Government's rationale in deciding not to hold exams is that it became clear that the peak of the infections would have coincided with exam season. The Government is now working with teaching organisations, exam boards and other related parties to agree on a fair way forward for the students. Again, we will inform you of any announcements on this as soon as any decision is



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made but please be assured that the hard work that the students have put in will be rewarded. Colleges will be adapting to the circumstances and ensuring that no student is disadvantaged when the new academic year starts.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and understanding in these challenging times. I wanted to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of all our students and to reassure you that we will continue to be here to offer support, advice and guidance.

Please do contact the school should you have any other questions.

Kind regards

Darren Warner-Swann  
Head of School