



18 March, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus update 4

School opening

I am writing to advise you that regrettably, we no longer have enough staff in school to be able to offer a full service for all year-groups. The following arrangements will therefore apply:

Year-group	Thursday 19 th March	Friday 20 th March
7	Open to all students as usual	Open to all students as usual
8	Open to all students as usual	Unless otherwise advised, we will be open. However there is a risk of closure.
9	Closed to almost all students (see below for exceptions)	Open to all students as usual
10	Open to all students as usual	Closed to almost all students (see below for exceptions)
11	Open to all students as usual	Open to all students as usual
12	Attendance is optional, but lessons are cancelled	Attendance is optional, but lessons are cancelled
13	Open to all students as usual	Open to all students as usual

We are deeply aware that closing the school will cause difficulties for parents and carers. We are committed to supporting vulnerable learners, and the children of essential healthcare workers, at this time. On both days, therefore, we will accommodate students in the following categories regardless of whether or not school is closed for their year-group:

- students with an Education Health-Care Plan;
- students currently entitled to Free School Meals;
- students who are in the care of the Local Authority; and
- students who have a parent/carer who works for the National Health Service.

Students in these categories whose year-group is not in school should report to the main office at the start of the school day. If you have any questions about this provision, please contact me directly at scbrierley@stmargaretsacademy.com

Students who are affected by this partial closure should **stay at home**. In line with Government advice given on Monday, they should socially distance themselves from others outside their household. Please have this discussion with them. They must not be out with their friends.

Supporting pupils

I have today delivered Assemblies to all seven year-groups to help prepare students in the event of full school closure. My three main messages were:

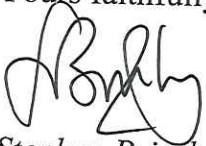
- **Stay Calm.** We have faith in the scientists as they work to beat this virus, and we have in God – in John 14, Jesus tells his followers: “*Do not be worried or upset*”
- **Stay Focussed.** If we close, it will be important to be self-disciplined in keeping up with the work set, and also to maintain a focus on helping those around us – neighbours, family *etc*
- **Stay Safe.** We all need to keep washing our hands! Students need to stay safe online too; too much screen-time isn’t good for well-being; and we must all be kind when socialising online

Please take the opportunity to reinforce these messages with your son or daughter in the event of any school closure (partial or otherwise).

As I have been drafting this letter, news has come through of a statement in the House of Commons at 5pm. Please therefore expect another update tomorrow!

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Brierley

Principal