



19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus update 5

School opening

I am writing to advise you that regrettably, due to staff shortages, we will be closing the school to almost all Year 8 pupils tomorrow, Friday 20 March. The following arrangements will therefore apply:

| Year-group | Friday 20 th March |
|------------|--|
| 7 | Open to all students as usual |
| 8 | Closed to almost all students (see below for exceptions) |
| 9 | Open to all students as usual |
| 10 | Closed to almost all students (see below for exceptions) |
| 11 | Open to all students as usual |
| 12 | Attendance is optional, but lessons are cancelled |
| 13 | 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. Tomorrow 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 is a 'key worker' (eg who works for the NHS).

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.

Next week

Although St Margaret's will be closed to most pupils next week, there is still considerable uncertainty about local arrangements for vulnerable students and key workers' children. We are awaiting further guidance from the Local Authority, and I anticipate being in a position to write to you further later today or (more likely) early tomorrow. Please keep monitoring our website and other communication channels.

Thank you to everyone who has e-mailed in to identify themselves as a key worker (and apologies to the small number of parents who had difficulty e-mailing the original e-mail address we gave). I am sorry I am not able to reply to each e-mailer personally, but the information you have provided is proving to be invaluable for our planning.

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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Brierley', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Brierley
Principal