



Beamont Collegiate
Academy



Ref GHA/CHE/CV/005

Wednesday 18 March 2020

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Principal: Mr G Harris BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

Statement from the Principal

Re. Government's Decision to Close Schools from Friday 20th March 2020.

On Wednesday 18th March the government announced its intention to close schools for almost all students as a measure to combatting the spread of Coronavirus until further notice. The government has indicated that schools should continue to remain open and offer some form of provision for some groups of students. Those groups include the children of NHS workers who are working at the forefront of this health crisis. The government announcement also indicated that the children of other "keyworkers" would also continue to attend school. At this point there is a lack of detail from the government about what roles and jobs are included in its term "keyworkers" However the Cabinet Office is due to release specific details on this on Thursday 18th March so I will confirm how this impacts on BCA families then.

For some families, students and teachers the most upsetting detail of the government's announcement today is the cancellation of the GCSE exams due to take place in May and June of this year. The government has stated that it will work with the exams regulator OfQUAL to ensure students receive grades and qualifications that allow them to progress to their planned post-16 destinations. This will be deeply upsetting for many of our students and their families. However, we will continue to work with the students and fully ensure that they are fully prepared for the next stage of their lives and the future challenges. We will also ensure that their time at BCA does not come to an abrupt end but marked with a celebration of their years with us.

Parents and carers of students in Years 7 to 10 will also have concerns about what this means for them. As you know from my previous letters and statements we have been preparing in the event of closure. Therefore, students are well equipped to work from home using Google Classroom and the packs of work they have already been provided with. I also want to reassure you that the academy will continue to provide remote learning via Google Classroom in the event of this closure extending beyond the Easter holidays.

For the next two days the school remains open for students in all year groups who are not self-isolating. Also, the advice remains the same from Public Health England in that students



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who develop a new and persistent cough and/or a high fever/temperature should self-isolate for 14 days along with all members of their household.

Over the course of the next two days I will continue to communicate with you via the website, our social media channels and letter in relation to the school closure on Friday 20th March and which students should attend on Monday 23rd March.

Once again I'd like to thank you for your continued support of the school and the staff. It's worth pointing out that the last few days our staff and students have faced some of the most uncertain and unpredictable events we've experienced in education, and they have shown themselves to be a community of people with real courage, heartening resilience and unrelenting hope that we perhaps need to draw upon more than ever.

The very best of health.



Gareth Harris
Principal