

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, thank you very much for the very supportive approach you have adopted during these exceptionally challenging times. I hope that I have made clear in my communications to you that I intend for Walton High School to remain at the heart of our community. Whilst we are formally closed from Monday, 23rd March onwards, we will continue to support your child, both academically and pastorally.

SPECIAL OPENING FROM MONDAY, 23RD MARCH FOR THE CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS AND THOSE ENTITLED TO SPECIALIST SUPPORT

At midnight last night, the government published a list of those parents/carers who are entitled to send their child to school. The link below provides specific details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We are grateful to all of these key workers who are looking after us all. In return, we intend to 'step up to the plate' and offer provision for your child(ren). It is critical to note, however, that this provision should only be taken up if there are no alternatives (see government guidance).

I cannot emphasise strongly enough that this cannot be an opt in activity for children who are bored (I have overheard that being discussed in the playground!); it cannot be a childminding service and it cannot be a choice because you feel that it offers increased educational opportunities for your child(ren). Sending your children to school at this time presents increased risks for children, staff and, crucially, our wider society. It must, therefore, be a last resort. Please send your children in if you meet **all** of the criteria below:

- you have been identified as a key worker in the attached guidance
- there is no other childcare available
- you would not normally leave your children without childcare at other times
- without this provision you would not be able to fulfil your crucial key worker role

If you meet all of the above criteria, my staff will not only be prepared to supervise your children, they will be delighted to do so in order to free you up for the vital work you are doing to support our country in this time of national crisis.

Arrangements for identified children

See the attached sheet for specific details.

Some parents have indicated that they will only need this provision sporadically, ie. depending on shift patterns etc. We completely understand this and are happy to support. We would ask that you let us know at least 24 hours in advance, via our dedicated email address:

support@walton.staffs.sch.uk

To conclude, school will be closed for the vast majority of students with effect from 3.20 pm today. Please keep your children safe by insisting that they adopt healthy social distancing habits, healthy personal hygiene habits and refrain from socialising with their friends in the local community. I know from long experience that some of our students will consider themselves immune from this disease; they are not.

I will try to write out regularly (although not as regularly as this last week!) over the coming weeks and months. These are very strange and worrying times but you have made my job so much easier through your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

N D Finlay
Headteacher



With kind regards.

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Headteacher's PA
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