

Coronavirus Update Monday 23rd March 2020

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

Sadly I had to inform you on Thursday 19th March that we had to make the difficult decision to close for operational reasons and that we would be providing your child with work to do at home. Thank you for the very supportive response to this and more generally for the patience and understanding you have shown during these exceptionally challenging times.

Provision from Monday 30th March

As we are all aware, the government has asked you to keep your children at home, wherever possible, in order to further limit the spread of coronavirus. They have asked schools to stay open for the children of **front-line keyworkers and vulnerable children for who there is no other alternative**. The government published a list of those parent / carers who are entitled to send their child to school at just after midnight last Friday. 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 want to offer provision for your child in line with government recommendations. ***It is critical to note, however, that this provision should only be taken up if there are no other alternatives for your child to be supervised safely (see guidance)***. In the best interests of your child and my colleagues, we wish to minimise any risks and the number of learners attending should, therefore, only be in circumstances where it is essential.

It is important that you understand the limits of the onsite provision that is on offer from Monday 30th March, whilst we are closed to the majority:

- Provision will be at the Hindley site, the Whelley site will remain closed;
- There will only be a skeleton staff team on site each day including 1 senior leader and 1 first aider;
- Food will be available each day – but choices will be limited;
- Learners will be supervised at all times and will complete the same work as their peers who are at home;
- Subject specific teachers will not necessarily be available to learners;
- Learners must comply with our usual uniform requirements;
- Learners will be expected to follow school rules/expectations and our usual school behaviour system will be in place;
- Should your child become ill during the school day, we will alert you immediately as they will need to be sent home.

Please note too that this provision is not be used as a 'drop-in service'. We will endeavour to be flexible and supportive but I am sure you will appreciate that we need to manage provision very carefully and I need to be mindful of the health of my own staff and their families. We will be asking your child to bring in formal identification of your key worker role. This could be in the form of a photocopy of your current ID badge, payslip or similar.

If you are a key worker and, in line with Government guidelines, you have no other alternative and you need to take up this offer from Monday 30th March, please contact us at ais@tapa.net

Attendance/Safeguarding monitoring

Each morning a register of those learners who are expected will be taken. If your child is not going to attend, it is crucial that you phone school and report the absence. If a learner has not turned up and we have not received a message, contact with home will be made. If there is no answer, our normal safeguarding response will be put in place.

Free-school meals

We are especially mindful of those families that are entitled to Free School Meals support and arrangements are being put in place to help such families. A Tesco voucher for the equivalent of 10 days has been posted out to those families who are entitled to free school meals.

As I continue to make clear, Three Towers will be closed to the vast majority of learners, but we are in no way closed in terms of our ongoing care and support:

- Welfare/check-in calls will be made to families and learners from today – these may be daily, twice weekly or weekly.
- Work packs (either paper copies or virtual) will continue to be provided for all our learners;
- Year 11 should continue to complete this work as it will help us when we are providing information on predicted grades to the exam boards;
- To help structure the day there is a separate suggested timetable on another sub-tab.