



# Penistone Grammar School

## Never Stop Flying

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Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

Our Ref: CMA/PCR

Date: 18 March 2020

Dear Parent and Carer

### Coronavirus: Covid-19 Latest Update

I write further to today's daily briefing ([PM statement on coronavirus: 18 March 2020](#)).

I can confirm that, from Friday 20 March at 14:50, we will close for the majority of students, only remaining open for those children of "critical workers" (also known as key workers), who would otherwise be forced to stay at home. In line with the Prime Minister's announcement, we will also remain open for the "most vulnerable children" which, at the time of writing, we believe to be those with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) in place, or those who have a social worker supporting them.

As I am sure you can appreciate, although not entirely unexpected, the implications of this decision are far reaching and there are many questions to which we do not yet have the answers, particularly for those young people who were due to sit their exams in the summer term. We expect further guidance to be released over the coming days and will share this with you once available.

This evening however; our priority is to ensure we can effectively support those students who will remain in school from Monday. To do this I would be grateful for the help of parents who are considered critical or key workers, the parents of students with an EHCP, and those families currently supported by a social worker. If you or your children are in any of these categories, we require you to complete a short survey, identifying yourselves and your intentions in terms of sending your children to school next week. This will enable me to make appropriate arrangements for those children, whilst simultaneously supporting the staff at Penistone Grammar School to care for their own families.

The survey can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SchoolClosureInfo>. I would be grateful if, wherever possible, those who need to complete the survey do so by 10:00am tomorrow. This will provide us with initial information upon which we can build our plans. I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

In the interim period between now and Friday we will remain open for every year group. This transitional period as we move towards closure for most of our young people is critical to enable students in every year group to collect books and resources as they prepare to continue their learning at home for the foreseeable future.



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Aim High



Be Determined



Be Brave



Be Supportive



Be Proud

I would like to reassure you that staff have invested significant time preparing for this eventuality and plans are in place to ensure every student receives 5 periods of learning every day during the closure period. Students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have had assemblies regarding these arrangements today, and I will write again tomorrow with further information about what you can expect in the coming weeks.

We recognise that the coronavirus outbreak has brought about particular hardship for some of our families and to that end we have started a food bank in school to which our staff have donated non-perishable goods and toiletries. If you are in a position to contribute to this, we will ensure all items reach those with the greatest need. Please send any donations you feel able to make into school with your children tomorrow or Friday, or drop them at our reception door.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your kind words, encouragement and offers of support during this time. Never have we felt more part of a community than over recent days, something which I know everyone at PGS has really valued. I would also like to recognise the mature way in which our students have conducted themselves during this time of challenge and pass on my thanks to our incredible staff team who continue to go above and beyond for our children, making me proud every day.

As always, I will continue to keep you updated and would ask that any questions are forward via email in the first instance to [enquiries@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:enquiries@penistone-gs.uk).

Yours sincerely



Paul Crook  
**Principal**

