

18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

PARTIAL SCHOOL CLOSURE FROM THURSDAY 19TH MARCH 2020

Following new Government measures and advice issued this week, we have seen an increase in staff absence; at the time of writing we have no confirmed cases of Coronavirus amongst staff or learners, but a significant number of staff are absent due to Government advice for ‘at risk’ groups and self-isolation.

Therefore, we have taken the decision to implement a **partial closure of the School from Thursday 19th March.**

THE SCHOOL REMAINS OPEN TO STUDENTS IN YEARS 7, 10 AND 11 AND CLOSED TO STUDENTS IN YEARS 8 AND 9 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Please note the exception to this, is that if you are a Parent/Carer of a child in Year 8 or 9 and you work in the healthcare industry or are a teacher and this would result in you not being able to attend work and you would like your child to access school. If this is the case then please contact Nichola Peaker on 01325 720424, or via email at npr@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk to inform us of your decision by 8am on the day that you are sending your child to school.

Free School Meals

If your child is in Year 8 or Year 9 and is in receipt of a free school meal and you would like to collect a “Grab Bag” please contact Nichola Peaker on 01325 720424, or via email at npr@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk to inform us of your decision by no later than 9am on the day that you wish to collect the Grab Bag; once we have received your request we will inform you of how we will facilitate this process.

We will continue to assess the staffing situation on a daily basis and update parents and carers about arrangements for Friday 20th on the AM of each previous day.

We appreciate the disruption this may cause to families and the education of our young people. However, we are sure you will understand these are exceptional circumstances. These measures will enable the school to continue functioning with safe staffing for those learners who are present.

Croft Road,
Hurworth-on-Tees,
Darlington DL2 2JG
Tel: 01325 720424 / 721188
Fax: 01325 721788

E-mail: enquiries@hurworthschool.org.uk
Website: www.hurworthschool.org.uk
Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, B Ed, NPQH
Head of School: Miss N Peaker, B Sc (Hons), NPQH

In addition, there may be further government advice this during the week, in which case we will respond accordingly.

Accessing Work Online – Years 8 and Year 9 (and any self-isolating students)

As stated in my letter to you on the 16th March <https://swiftacademies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Hurworth-March-16th.pdf> we outlined the strategies that we were planning to implement if this situation arose, as a result this week we have held assemblies and staff have briefed the students on how they can work at home via Microsoft Teams which can be accessed via their school email account. If your child does not have access to the internet, then they will have been provided with “hard copies” of the resources.

Should your child wish to communicate with their teachers during the school closure via Posts on Teams or they may do so via school e-mail addresses – **neither staff nor students should use personal e-mail addresses.**

Year 9 Options

If your child is in Year 9 then the Options Process will continue as per the letter you received on Friday 13th March. <https://hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk/download/35/options/2082/option-booklet-2020.pdf>
<https://hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk/download/35/options/2081/option-choices-letter.pdf>

As you are aware these are unprecedented circumstances and as such we will endeavour to update you at the earliest possible opportunity via ParentMail, SIMS InTouch and on the school website as the situation changes; updates will also be provided on our social media feeds via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - please follow @HurworthSchool on these platforms.

If you need to contact the school please email enquiries@hurworthschool.org.uk

Thank you in anticipation for your understanding and support.

Best wishes

N Peaker

Head of School

