

3rd April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Coronavirus Closure Update – (0148-19NLI)

Thank you to those of you that have supported your children's learning at home during this difficult period. There have been some fantastic examples of work on Teams and photographs that have been emailed to staff. At the time of writing this letter, there has been no indication that the situation for schools will change following the Easter break. Therefore, the current arrangements will continue to operate from Monday 20th April 2020. Please encourage your children to access their work on Teams or in their work packs and to continue with the excellent effort!

A small minority of pupils have not yet completed any of their set assignments on Teams. If this applies to your child, you will be receiving a telephone call from a member of the Leadership Team in the week commencing 20th April to offer support with ensuring that your child continues to access their education whilst the school remains closed.

It is essential that children keep up with their learning during this period. Remember however, that the next two weeks are the Easter holidays (although it does not feel quite like it at the moment) and children will need some time to relax and recharge.

Free School Meals Update

After the Easter holidays we will be sending out vouchers to those entitled to Free School Meals through the government voucher scheme. More information will be sent out directly to qualifying families.

Year 11 GCSEs and Vocational Qualifications

We are fully aware that this is a very unsettling time for Year 11 pupils as they wait to hear how their grades will be awarded this summer. Ofqual (the exams regulator) have this morning released some details about how this process will operate. We have been making preparations in the background and we will be touch regularly as the situation develops.

From a pupil point of view, the key point from the statement is: -

“There is no requirement to set additional mock exams or homework tasks for the purposes of determining a centre assessment grade, and no student should be disadvantaged if they are unable to complete any work set after schools were closed...Schools and colleges do not need to ask pupils to complete any unfinished non-exam assessment work for the purposes of grading.”



We will be in touch with you after the Easter break with more information about this process. The deadline for schools to submit grades is the 29th May and Ofqual are anticipating that pupils will receive their grades on or before the original results day.

The full statement can be accessed via the link below: -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877842/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents.pdf

Support for Young People, Children and Adults during COVID-19

We know that this is a difficult time, particularly if you are living with someone who may be harming you or that you are scared of. If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, then call 999 and ask for the Police. If you are not in immediate danger but require support, you can contact Harbour on 03000 202525 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you are aged between 11 and 18 and live or study in Darlington and are finding the current situation hard to cope with, you can call a free dedicated helpline, this service is delivered by the Listening Post and Darlington MIND.

The Listening Post will be offering a dedicated service from 10am to 12noon each weekday (Monday-Friday). Please contact 07847 933799 during the designated times. If the telephone line is busy or unavailable, you can also contact the service by emailing: listeningpost@dacym.co.uk

Darlington MIND will also be offering a dedicated service from 1.30pm to 4.30pm each weekday (Monday-Friday). Please contact 07432 843161 during the designated times. If the telephone line is busy or unavailable, please make contact with MIND by emailing: crew@darlingtonmind.com

The services will be working closely together to ensure that you have access to the most appropriate support to help you through this period of uncertainty and will be able to share information, where it is required, to co-ordinate your support each day.

Communication During School Closure

We will continue to provide updates via ParentMail and the school website. Please see our website for all previous correspondence related to the Coronavirus School Closure.

For general enquiries, please email enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

Finally, thank you all for your support through this difficult and unprecedented time. A special thanks to all of our Key Worker parents / carers who are putting themselves at risk to make sure everyone else is looked after. You have our respect and very best wishes.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Lindsay
Head of School