

3 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update

School Closure

As you are aware the Government announced that schools would close from Friday 20th March for the vast majority of students and has “**asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend**”. At the time of writing there has been no indication that the situation for schools will change following the Easter break therefore the same arrangements as we have had in place since the closure will continue to operate from Monday 20th April. The most recent guidance for parents/carers which includes updated information about keeping children safe on-line can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

If you would like your child to attend school can you please inform Nichola Peaker via her email on npr@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk or via **telephone/text on 01325 720424 (school hours)/07809211562 (out of school hours)**. In your message please state your child’s name and year group. Please note that the usual school transport routes are being cancelled, so if this is your child’s usual mode of transport for attending school then you will also need to inform us of this in your message so that alternative transport arrangements can be made. **If you wish your child to attend school on Monday 20th April then please ensure that you have informed me by no later than 3.30 pm on Thursday 16th April.** For dates beyond the 20th April please ensure that you have informed me by **no later than 3.30 pm on the previous day if your child is attending school the next day** e.g. Monday for a Tuesday, Tuesday for a Wednesday etc.

Please note that for safeguarding reasons we must be aware of the children that we are expecting to attend the school on a daily basis; therefore, if you have informed us that your child will be attending school we will treat their attendance as we would if they were attending school on a “normal school day”, therefore they will be subject to a morning and afternoon registration and we will call you if your child is absent as we would on a “normal school day”. We will be operating normal school rules during your child’s time in school however they will **not** be expected to wear their school uniform. The school canteen is also being staffed during the period

of closure so food will be available for your child however please be aware that this will be limited to cold food only.

Year 11 GCSE's and Vocational Qualifications

If your child is in Year 11 we are fully aware that this is a very unsettling time for them as they wait to hear how they will be awarded grades this summer for the subjects they have been studying. A statement regarding this has been released this morning along with a letter for students which has been sent directly to your child's email.

The key points from the statement from the students point of view are:-

“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 students 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 students will receive their grades on or before the original results day

The full statement can be accessed from:-

[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](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)

Year 9 Options process

Further to the letter which all Year 9 parents have already been sent, a final reminder that **today is the deadline** for the return of the Options forms. If you have had any difficulties downloading or returning the form you can e-mail your child's option choices to Mr Gawthorpe via nge@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk. Please include your child's name along with their choices.

Mr Gawthorpe will be collating all returns over the Easter period and identifying any potential issues, if you have not heard back from either Mr Gawthorpe or Miss Peaker by **Friday 24th April** you can assume your child has been “successful” with their choices.

If you require any further information on the options process, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Gawthorpe by e-mail.

Years 7 to 10 School Work

As outlined to you in our letter dated 20th March the school is providing work for students in Years 7 to 10 via Microsoft Teams which can be accessed via their school e-mail account. If your child is 'experiencing technical difficulties with accessing their account then please contact enquires@hurworthschool.org.uk and we will endeavour to assist you where we can.

Please note sufficient work has been set for at least 3 weeks therefore your child should not have fully completed all of the tasks set yet – additional tasks will be uploaded by staff as previous work is completed and submitted. If they have a subject specific query then please contact the teacher concerned via their school email address. **If your child does not have internet access, then paper copies of the next set of work for each subject will be sent to you after Easter.** Whilst parents/carers can currently see the deadlines students are being set by accessing your child's Teams accounts we will be writing to you after the Easter break with a full overview of the deadlines they have been set.

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

Additional information and support for Parents/Carers

Darlington Educational Psychology Service have today published some guidance for adults to support them in addition to the work they are doing to support young people. A copy of this guidance is attached for your information.

If you require any additional information regarding Safeguarding then this can be accessed via the school website. The link for this is below:

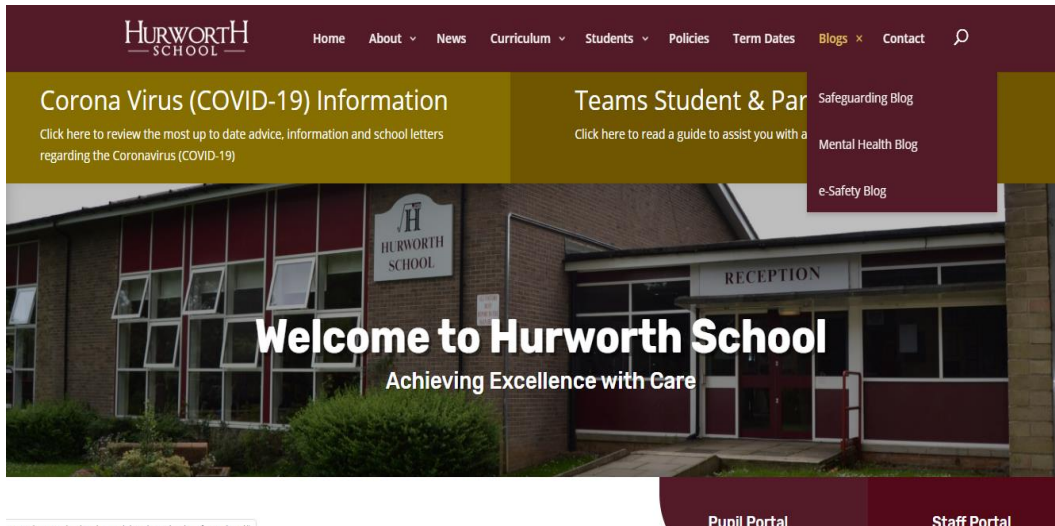
<https://hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk/>

and our Safeguarding blog can be found via the tab at the top of the page as shown on the screenshot:



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Chief Executive: Mr D Judson, B Ed, NPQH
Head of School: Miss N Peaker, B Sc (Hons), NPQH



We are Hurworth

As part of our ongoing support for students during the school closure they are being sent a weekly newsletter **direct to their school emails every Friday morning**. The newsletter is a way to pass on any school information they need to know, share top tips for how to cope with being at home and to help students who don't have access to social media etc to keep in touch with each other. Should you wish to access the document it can be found under the 'Students' tab on the school website.

How will the school communicate during closure periods?

We will provide updates 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 for your support.

Yours sincerely



Miss N Peaker
Head of School

