15 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Coronavirus Update**

**Latest Schools update from Department of Education**

As you are all aware the latest information for parents/carers was released on the 11 May 2020

**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june**

The guidance states,

*“From the week commencing 1st June, we are asking:*

* *all schools and childcare providers to continue to offer places to the priority groups – vulnerable children and children of critical workers – they have been supporting since the end of March.*

*This approach aims to limit numbers within schools and further education settings while ensuring that the children and young people who can benefit from attending most are able to do so.*

*We will only do this provided that the 5 key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programmes set out in the roadmap are operating effectively. As a result, we are asking schools, colleges and childcare providers to plan on this basis, ahead of confirmation that these tests are met.”* i.e. it is not a ‘definite’ that anything will change on this date.

Should the 5 key tests be satisfied, The Department for Education has expressed a desire that “*Secondary schools should also prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning”.*

The feasibility of this being possible should the 5 key tests be satisfied, is currently being reviewed by all interested parties.

There is no anticipated return to the school site in the Academic Year 2019-20 for Years 7, 8 and 9.

There is no change at this stage to the qualifying factors for families under the critical key workers categorisation. The full list of who is eligible can be found at:

[**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision)

Swift Academies, along with parents/carers, Trade Unions etc. is currently digesting, reviewing and considering the implications and next steps that it will take as result of the documentation.

Therefore, we will be informing you in due course of the plan for each respective school within the Trust for the remainder of the Summer Term.

**Attendance at school week commencing 18th May 2020**

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** 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.**

**Half-Term Opening – Monday 25th- Friday 29th May 2020**

The school will be opening for children of critical key workers and vulnerable children if there is a **necessity** for them to attend school as in normal circumstances the school would have been closed during this period. If you wish your child to attend school then please contact Nichola Peaker using the contact details above – all requests for the half term period must be made by **3.30 on Wednesday 20th May**.

**Year 7 to 10 school work**

Thank you once again for all of your support with helping your child to continue to access learning at home. As outlined to you in previous letters 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. Where you have let us know that your child does not have access to a computer we have posted paper copies of work to you.

**Students were** **all allocated more work to complete at the start of this week and are doing so on a fortnightly basis. Please note that the expectation is that students will complete around 3 hours of work a day. We fully understand and empathise with the difficult situation that everyone finds themselves in at the moment and appreciate that not every child will be able to do this – the deadlines which have been set for work are all flexible and the overriding message to all students is just to do what they can. We are setting more tasks than we think they will need so that those students who work more quickly or want to complete additional tasks have things which they can move on to – please reassure your child that they are not ‘behind’ if they don’t complete everything.**

No new work is being set next week and the next batch of work will be issued to students in the week commencing 1st June. The second attachment you will have received alongside this letter is a year group specific overview of the tasks your child has been working on in the second part of this half term.

**National Thank a Teacher Day**

National Thank a Teacher Day is being held on 20 May next week and we are encouraging all of our students to participate in this. Details of how they can take part in the national activities can be accessed via the link below however students may wish to simply send a message to their teacher via Teams or email instead:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/>

**Year 11 Support**

Whilst Year 11 are not being set work during this period, support is still available to them particularly with their transition to their post-16 courses. Mrs Hudson has been supporting students with the application process and has written to all Year 11 students directly this week with a comprehensive guidance booklet for how to apply for a variety of different institutions and is available to help wherever needed. If your child is in Year 11 the second attachment you will have received alongside this letter is a guide from Darlington’s Educational Psychology Service to further support the transition process. We are also hoping to invite all of our Year 11 students in to school for a meeting with their Mentor before they come off the school roll on 26th June, but the feasibility of this will be determined by government guidance.

In our letter dated 3rd April we wrote to you to regarding the process for determining the students grades this summer. The full guidance can be found at the link below and Results Day has been confirmed as **20th August**. At the time of writing we are unsure what the national status will be by this date so we will write to you nearer the time with full details of how your child can collect their results.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>

As we have explained to you in previous correspondence, we are very conscious of the fact that we do not want our Year 11s to miss out on being able to celebrate their time with us. For those students who have ordered hoodies and yearbooks these will be available to them as soon as the companies who are printing them for the school re-open and we will keep you up to date with the progress with these. The prom has been *provisionally* re-booked for the end of November but given the current uncertainty as to when different venues will be allowed to re-open, we have not yet sent students their invitations to this – the last thing we want is for them to start organising transport etc only for the date to have to be postponed again! Once it is confirmed that the prom can go ahead then we will be in touch with full details.

**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 enquries@hurworthschool.org.uk

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Miss N Peaker

Head of School