



19th March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils

Following on from my last update, I'm now writing to let you know that we have now been instructed to close the school to almost all children **after this Friday** until further notice.

Yesterday, the Government announced changes to how schools will operate as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The scientific advice now states that a move to remote learning is in the best interests of children and will help relieve the pressure on the health system.

The school site will open with a skeleton staff to provide support for the children of key workers, such as NHS staff, police and delivery drivers. We are waiting for the Government to publish more information on who 'key workers' and those with 'certain needs' will include. For planning purposes, if you think you fall into this category, please send an email with your child's name and class to [admin@gladesmore.com](mailto:admin@gladesmore.com) including details why you may be in this category. We will respond in due course.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure, as you may have heard in the news. So, whilst it is a challenging situation, we are not alone. We'll re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know as soon as we know ourselves. Please regularly check the Gladesmore Website [www.gladesmore.com](http://www.gladesmore.com) for updates.

## What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course very important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn. We appreciate the challenges this will pose but we need students to show self-discipline and do their best. Ultimately, it will be important so that our young people do not have large gaps in their learning when they resume their studies.

- parents and students can find work set via the Gladesmore Website [www.gladesmore.com](http://www.gladesmore.com) also on 'Show My Homework'. There are a number of online learning packages that they will have access to such as 'MathsWatch'.
- We expect student to continue with their learning and to complete work. We would encourage families to establish routines for this at home.
- We have also issued some 'physical' packs of work for students. Further packs may be distributed on request.

## If your child usually receives free school meals

We will also be in touch with more information about how we will provide this, with support from a scheme that the government has just announced.



### **GCSE and BTEC examinations**

These examinations will not go ahead this academic year. We have not, as yet, been advised on how qualification grades will be decided and awarded. No doubt students and parents will be worried about this. It is very likely that GCSE and BTEC grades will be awarded based on performance and work that students have completed so far and the improvement that they would typically make by the time of the examinations. The teachers assessment of Year 11 indicate that students were in an extremely strong position and we were expecting outstanding results. We are not expecting students to be disadvantaged by the government's decision.

### **If your child is due to start in Year 7 at Gladesmore in September**

We may not be able to hold our usual induction meetings and summer school this year. Nevertheless, will be in contact with you in due course to make suitable arrangements for the transition from primary to secondary.

### **Stay safe**

This is as much as we know right now and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand that this latest news will have an impact on you and your family and it's far from ideal, but we'll continue to keep in touch with any updates as the situation develops.

Please follow the Public Health England advice and if you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next, please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support, we will be in touch with more information when we can.

We are all part of an extremely special school community at Gladesmore and I know that our resilient spirit will carry us through this unprecedented and difficult time.

Sincerely

Tony Hartney CBE

