

Coronavirus update – Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear parents / carers

As you'll now no doubt be aware, the government has now taken the decision to enforce school closures from Monday 23rd March onwards *for the foreseeable future*. They have recognised what I have privately feared for a few weeks now - that it will simply not be possible to run a GCSE and A Level examination season this summer. Both are these announcements are unprecedented. For all of us working in the education sector, there is no prior experience in our careers that we can draw upon to guide us as we move forward. However, as a profession we are used to enacting change and coping with situations that change on a daily basis, and I am sure that answers to the many questions we all have will become clear in the coming days.

My primary thoughts this evening are with our wonderful Year 11 and Year 13 students who have all been working conscientiously now for several months, completing coursework assignments and beginning to revise for examinations this summer that they will not now be sitting. The Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education in their announcements earlier both made a commitment to the young people of the country that they would receive the qualifications they need to progress. How this will happen in practice has yet to be announced, but of course as soon as we have more details we will communicate these to you and your sons and daughters.

For students in Year 7 to 10, and Year 12 whose education at Caedmon College and Whitby Sixth Form will continue at some point later this year, we will, of course, be supporting their learning during the period that schools are closed. We will write to you again in the next few days telling you how they and you can access the tasks that we have prepared for each year group across a range of subjects. As the country moves into more uncertain times over the coming weeks, I am sure that the normality of some studying each day, health permitting, will help your sons and daughters through what will be difficult and worrying times for them.

I will endeavour to maintain regular communications with you over the coming days and provide answers and clarifications for the many questions you will undoubtedly have.

Thank you for your on-going support of the school and Whitby Sixth Form.

Yours faithfully



Simon Riley

Principal