



Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

Dear Parents and Carers

23rd March 2020

Many parents and carers are following the enhanced Government advice to keep their children at home and today we have far fewer key worker children in attendance than we were expecting. I think it would be safe to assume that the Government is likely to strengthen the advice still further in the days ahead. Please stay safe and well during this challenging time.

Key workers.

The Government has made it clear that their expectation is that “If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be” (Key Principle 1). The “Stay At Home” message is being continuously reinforced and strengthened by the government and we would ask parents to very much respond to this, particularly in light of the age and maturity of our students.

The Government guidance published 19th March (via link below), states, “Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home and every child who can be safely cared for at home should be”. Furthermore, the Local Authority have instructed us that key worker parents must provide evidence of key worker status through employment ID or a letter from their employer. The details and key worker form remain on the homepage of the school website.

The full list including additional advice can be found [here](#)

In my letters of 19th and 20th March, we asked all key worker parents to inform us of their intention to send their children to school between Monday 23rd March to Thursday 2nd April no later than 2pm last Friday. If parents wish to withdraw their child from attending during this first fortnight, please do the following:

- Inform us if at all possible, by 3pm the day before withdrawal and no later than 9am on the day the child does not attend.
- If the child is unwell and unable to attend, please notify us before 9am as per the normal absence procedures.

Key worker student school attendance between Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April.

Please note that this is what would have been the School Easter holiday. The School will not be in a position to provide supervision for key worker children on Friday 10th April (Good Friday) and Monday 13th April (Bank Holiday Monday).

Please notify the School via the enquiries email address no later than 1pm on **Tuesday 31st March** should you wish your child to attend school between these dates. Parents need to register that they would like their child to attend during this fortnight but note they can (as per the arrangements explained above) withdraw attendance on particular days as we appreciate that this makes it slightly easier for parents working shift patterns.

Important Information for students now you are working from home.

- Years 11 and 13 and their parents will receive a specific letter outlining the government’s initial plans for the examinations.
- Year 12 BTEC students – we are currently seeking clarification on your modules and work and we will be in touch when we know more.
- Students should all have copies of their subject work for the fortnight 23rd March – 2nd April. Follow a good routine and get the work done. You should print it off and stick it into your books or save it on a memory stick and print it off when you return to school. Please do not send your completed work to your teachers via the school email system unless they specifically ask you for it (they are very busy at the moment with all the emails I am sending to them with lists of things they need to do!)

- You can email your teachers with questions, queries and for help with the work they have set. They will be checking during each school day for these emails. From tomorrow most of the staff will be working at home, just like you and so will be there to support you. They might not be able to respond straight away and so if you are stuck, ask a friend or check online material and move onto different work whilst you wait for a response.
- Take care of your physical health! Exercise and try out some of the many fitness programmes appearing on TV and the internet.
- Take care of your mental health – start a new hobby or activity, play games, paint, be creative, bake, have some fun. We will be surprising you over the next few weeks with a few “School Closure Challenges” to get you involved in fun bits and pieces that may well contribute towards house points so keep an eye out for those.
- Join the school Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts. We will be posting updates and you will be able to upload your contributions from some of the “School Closure Challenges”.
- Check your school emails daily.
- We will not be setting work during the Easter holidays (3rd April – 19th April). The next cycle of work, (20th April – 1st May) will be uploaded onto the school website homepage after the Easter hols.
- School today feels very different without you. I am not sure I like it and know that staff are feeling the same too. We are all hoping that we will see you again soon.

The VLE.

Below is a reminder of how to access the VLE.

1. Select ‘VLE’ from the school website homepage (located in between the ‘Parents’ and ‘Staff’ links).
2. Click on login (top right corner) and then select the link that says, “Forgotten my username or password”.
3. Enter EITHER your username (if you know it) or your school email and press one of the search buttons.
4. Go to your school email and look for the email from “SHS VLE”.
5. Find the link and copy all the way from “http” to the end of the random list of letters after “token=”.
6. Paste this in to Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari.
7. Create a new password, following the set rules.
8. If you do not receive an email after completing these steps then email Mr Fovargue (Andrew.Fovargue@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk) to request a check and reset on your account. He will then reset your account and email you with confirmation and instructions.

Important information for parents now that your children are working from home.

We hope the work document is clear, straightforward and easy to follow. Please email via enquiries if there is anything we can do to help. We also know it can be rewarding and challenging having children at home working on schoolwork. There are several very useful reports and websites that are appearing online and we will try to build up a list for the school website to make them easy to find.

All letters will be posted on the homepage and then archived into the Covid-19 folder.

We continue to respond to the rapidly changing demands at short notice and I do hope at some point soon it will not be necessary to send home daily updates. In the meantime, we wish you and your families well and hope that you all stay safe.

Yours sincerely



M K Anderson
Headmistress