



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

Dear Parents/Guardians

Following yesterday's decision by HM Government to close all schools at the end of this week we have been planning future arrangements here at Bishop's. The following important changes should be noted:

- Because of very low attendance in the remaining year groups and an increasing number of staff who are away from school too **we will be closing the school to ALL pupils from tonight**. The only exceptions to this will be Year 7 and 8 sons of key workers\* who are welcome to send their boys to school to be supervised. This will also be the arrangement for future weeks. Please let School Reception know by email asap if your son will be attending;
- Parents of vulnerable children\* are also invited to send their children in to school;
- Work will be set by teachers for all boys on Insight, either on a lesson-by-lesson basis or as a package of work for longer projects etc. Instructions for accessing work, submission of work and file management have been given separately;
- The timing of the school day will remain unchanged. Boys who attend BWS from tomorrow will be completing the same work as those who are at home – in other words they will be accessing their tasks via Insight, albeit in the school environment, and will have a day divided into blocks of time for study together with appropriate breaks;
- Once we know the number of boys who will be attending then we should be able to organise catering as necessary. In the immediate short term it would help immensely if boys were able to bring sandwiches and a drink to see them through tomorrow.

Can I make a couple of points about exams for those parents of boys in Years 11 and 13. My understanding is that exams have not been 'cancelled', as has been reported in the media. What is far more likely is that the exams will have to be rescheduled and possibly changed in format to adapt them to the new circumstances. I await definitive guidance from the exams regulator, and in the meantime I regard the speculation that is in the various forms of mainstream and social media as wholly unhelpful and counter-productive. What seems certain is that (a) there will be some form of definitive, regulated assessment for both GCSE and A level so that neither year group is disadvantaged and (b) all of the students are in the same boat, so whatever is done will be fair for everyone and will not imperil youngsters' life and career chances in the future. I hope that is of some reassurance for you, and like you, I await further developments with interest...

\*the terms 'key worker' and also 'vulnerable child' have yet to be officially determined. We will follow HM Government guidance, so could you please confirm your role as a key worker when you email to alert us to your son's attendance.

Yours sincerely

S D Smallwood

Head Master