



Nether Stowe School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for the support we have received since the government announcement regarding school closure. This is a difficult time for everyone. I know the news will have come as a surprise for many and is causing concern.

You may be aware that the government have now issued further guidance around the definition of keyworkers. The guidance applies where **both** parents or caregivers are considered a key worker. The list is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

However, I would like to stress that the government have also said:

The principle is that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The Government is asking parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible – schools will remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be, as the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Given other measures announced by the government regarding self-isolation for people with underlying health issues, we are operating on highly reduced staffing levels. We will always do what we can, but we urge parents to adhere to the guidance above to help us in supporting parents, carers and pupils who need this the most and to limit the risk of infection.

I urge you, please, to consider this very carefully as we will have to close our doors fully if we cannot guarantee the safety of children.

If you are intending to send your child into school, it is essential that you inform us at the earliest opportunity. **Any pupil attending must do so in normal school uniform.** Any pupil attending on Monday 23rd March should report to the school hall at 08:40. On each day of attendance, they will need to sign in at reception.

Pupils who are not attending school but who wish to collect a free-school meal are able to do so from reception during the normal lunch period time (12:20 – 13:00). As they are not remaining on site they do not need to be in school uniform.

As you will be aware, the school is committed to providing a significant degree of high-quality online learning resources for all students via the Stella portal, available through the school home page. There is also guidance on how to access the materials. Year 11 students will be provided with work and resources to support their transition to preferred Sixth Form subjects. These will be updated on a regular basis by staff, who will also email to direct pupils to the appropriate work. Work returned to staff will be assessed and feedback provided.

Email: office@netherstowe.com **Website:** www.netherstowe.com **Twitter:** @netherstowe



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We were disappointed not to be able to provide a more formal farewell to our Year 11 and Year 13 students yesterday. We will aim to plan a special event when circumstance allow us to. Further information will be sent out when it is available. We are currently reviewing the plans for Prom but, in the interest of transparency, we are not hopeful we will be able to hold it as planned.

We very much appreciate - and share - student and parental anxiety around GCSE and A Level qualifications, we are currently awaiting the guidance and will provide more information when we receive it. Please rest assured that we will provide all the support we can. All of the pupils who have applied for a place in our Sixth Form will be supported to gain their place. For pupils whose plans lie elsewhere, we will provide all the support possible.

Please keep monitoring the school website and twitter feed for updates. Communication is essential in such times and we will endeavour to provide you with as much information as possible as and when, we have it.

Yours faithfully,



Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

Email: office@netherstowe.com Website: www.netherstowe.com Twitter: @netherstowe



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