



**Leventhorpe**  
a business and enterprise academy

## **Coronavirus Update for Parents and Carers: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 2pm**

**Partial closure of Year 11 and Year 13 on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Full closure of Leventhorpe School from 3.35pm 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have seen in the news that schools have been instructed to close by the government from this Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March and this message is to inform you of how we will manage this process. We apologise for the length of the message and that some sections might not be relevant to your individual situation.

### Year 11 and Year 13 partial closure on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Our staff levels have worsened somewhat today and so tomorrow we must open with two year groups closed; these will be **Year 11 and Year 13**. Year 9 students should come back into school tomorrow, Friday, for normal lessons. All other year groups will be open as usual on Friday.

We have chosen Year 11 and Year 13 tomorrow as we need to understand the government's expectations about how GCSE and Post 16 grades will be awarded before we can set the correct tasks. We will start setting new tasks for Year 11 and 13 on Monday and tomorrow they should continue with homework and course tasks from this week.

### Our shared public duty

It is our shared duty to work together as citizens to protect the lives of the vulnerable during this health crisis. The government have informed us that we can play our part by suppressing the transmission of the Coronavirus by avoiding large gathering and it has been decided that schools pose a large gathering risk.

Unfortunately, from Monday we will not be able to open to most children and they will be required to stay at home for their own safety and to slow transmission of the virus. We recognise that this will be a burden, because parents and carers will have to take full responsibility for their children in the home during the weekday too.

Please tell your child about the part they have to play by being sensible at home, helping where they can and getting on with their education. They should not go out and meet in groups or meet in groups inside family homes. It is likely that the government will soon give us further guidance on this and may even take steps to "lock down" parts of the country to suppress transmission.

### Children of key workers

Leventhorpe will play its part in providing continuing education for the children of key workers and we expect to receive greater clarity from the government about who this covers and what provision should be. Our building may be open for these children, if this is what we are instructed to do.

### Online education

We will provide a full online education package for students in all year groups from Monday. Expect your child to have many hours of study during the day, which they will be expected to do. This switch to online will inevitably have some teething problems, but we are confident that our technology will work and that students will get used to it quickly. We anticipate that the national wifi network will be under strain next week, so tell your child to be patient with download speeds.

We will teach children through Office 365 Teams and have the Office email system as a back-up. We will move away from using Show My Homework as soon as we can, because 365 gives us more technical functionality.

Student 365 accounts are based on Office email accounts, which students all have. If Jane Smith started a Leventhorpe in 2018 her address would be:

[18SmithJ@leventhorpe.herts.sch.uk](mailto:18SmithJ@leventhorpe.herts.sch.uk)

Students will know their password for school working, but could request a reset from:

[itsupport@leventhorpe.net](mailto:itsupport@leventhorpe.net)

By Friday we will have published a link on the school website [www.leventhorpe.net](http://www.leventhorpe.net) which will contain brief guidance and a video for parents and carers about how to ensure their child has got started with their online learning.

### Free school meals

We are expecting an announcement soon about free school meals from the government and we are working on the basis that we may be able to make payments to parents and carers of children who normally receive their meals. More information will follow when we have it.

### Examinations and qualification for Year 11 and Year 13

The situation is unclear at the moment about how Year 11 and 13 will receive their qualifications and how the grade will be assessed, however, we expect student to keep working. Possible solutions might include later exams, online exams, teacher assessed grades or university/sixth form entrance examinations all of which make it really important that Year 11 and 13 keep studying and improving their subject knowledge. We will communicate further information as soon as there is clarity.

### Examination and qualification for Year 10 and year 12

We predict that examinations in 2021 will appear in the normal format and so it will be essential that Year 10 and Year 12 pupils do their very best with their online learning during the closure. We expect that the material we teach online will be part of the 2021 exams and there will not be time to teach it again face to face when school reopens.

### Mock examinations for Year 10

Students in Year 10 have been working hard on mock examinations this week and we will work to complete these. Exams scheduled for next week will be set online, as well as any that have been missed by self-isolating students. These exam results are for school use only and so students should complete them without using online help and in the right amount of time so that they get a realistic picture of how they are doing.

### Learning for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9

Our planned lessons up until Easter and in the summer term are all vital to students so that they gain the necessary knowledge to take them on to the next stage of their education. Students will need to study hard and do all set tasks, so that they have the knowledge and skill to be successful in their GCSEs

### Year 8 option processes

We will move our option system online to ensure that Year 8 pupils can select the subjects they will take in Year 9. Parents should be especially attentive of messages regarding options and help their child to make the right choices. We anticipate that we should be able to release Year 8 interim reports early next week to provide some academic progress information

### Leaver celebrations for Year 11 and Year 13

Staff and students are really upset that this health emergency has spoilt the timing of the leavers' celebrations that are so much a part of Leventhorpe life. Clearly, with many young people in each year group in self-isolation; the restrictions on public gatherings; the restrictions on parents gathering in school; and challenging staffing levels we cannot hold these events this week. However, we are totally committed to give Year 11 and Year 13 the send-off they deserve and will make sure we can mark the event when the school is allowed to fully open again. We do not know when the school may re-open, but we hope it can before the summer is over.

### Symptoms in children and within the family – self-isolation

We would like to repeat this important message about reducing the spread of the virus through self-isolation. This message will be relevant tomorrow, Friday.

*Public Health England have changed their advice to all members of the public that they should self-isolate for a period of at least 14 days should they show the symptoms of a fever/high temperature and/or a new persistent cough **or** if these symptoms are shown by people who live in their home.*

We anticipate that any “key worker” children who show symptoms would still need to isolate to avoid transmission for other in the setting. We expect detailed guidance might appear over the weekend

#### Further information

We would like to remind you to look regularly at the government’s advice on these matters, as this will include the most up to date guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

#### Finally

The students’ attitudes today have been very mature. We are rightly proud of the young people we serve, and their approach has been a credit to you as parents and carers.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm White  
Headteacher