

Ref: RV/hw

20 March 2020

Dear Parents



Following Government guidelines, school will be closed from the end of today for the majority of pupils other than vulnerable children and children of key workers who require child supervision. I have included the Department for Education guidance below.

#### **Department for Education Guidance**

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. 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.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

- Health and social Care
- Education and childcare
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Although school will be open for a small number of pupils, can I draw your attention to the statement made above '**every child who can be safely cared for at home should be**'.

#### **Year 11 GCSE Examinations**

We can now confirm that the GCSE and other examinations for Year 11 are cancelled. We will share information regarding how pupils will be awarded grades when it is provided by the Department for Education.

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### **Work for pupils during school closure**

To support our children's education during this period of school closure, teachers will be uploading tasks for their classes onto 'Show My Homework' every week.

We have aimed to make this as clear and manageable as possible by devising a timetable for each year group. These timetables are attached and show that in most cases work will be uploaded for two subjects each day.

Work should be available by 9:30am each day. Additionally, staff will be available to answer individual queries between 9.00am-1.00pm each day using the 'Show My Homework' facility. Pupils who are unable to access work electronically, should contact school for individual guidance at [rstevens@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:rstevens@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk) and [mgeoghegan@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:mgeoghegan@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk).

We have asked staff to provide this work however, please be mindful that where a member of staff is ill, work might not be openly available. We will do our very best to support the education of your child at this difficult time.

### **Year 9 Options**

The Year 9 option deadline remains as 27 March 2020. If your child has not yet handed in an option form please feel free to email this to [rstevens@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:rstevens@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk). Similarly, if your child has any concerns about their options they should also contact Ms Stevens.

### **Food Vouchers**

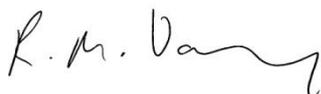
Some families may be eligible for food vouchers. We will be contacting families directly in the coming days. If you have any queries regarding food vouchers, please contact the school using [office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk).

The school Twitter account ([https://twitter.com/BTRCCinfo?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/BTRCCinfo?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) will remain active so please continue to view this. You may also want to view Bishop John's announcement regarding Church services and worship at <http://www.btrcc.lancs.sch.uk/index.php/2019-10-02-14-51-58/letters-home>.

This is an unprecedented situation for all of us and we will endeavour to keep you informed of any new developments, as and when we receive them. The school is open should you need to contact us please do so on: [office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk).

Thank you for your continued support. I pray that you and your family will be safe over this time.

Yours sincerely



Richard Varey  
Headteacher