



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Update to school closure letter

Dear parent/carer

As you will now be aware, from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March we will be providing a facility to provide care for vulnerable children and those whose parents are key workers. The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. Children should observe the same social distancing principles as adults. Therefore, we will only provide this for children of key workers and for those children in vulnerable groups who require this service. No other children should attend school.

The definition of key workers has now been published here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

This includes people who work in the following key sectors:

- Health and Social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

The government advice is that if workers think they may fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

This new advice may require you to update information you submitted to us yesterday. If your child needs to be in school next week because there is no other care and they cannot be left alone, please ensure you have completed the online parent survey as soon as possible so that we can arrange a place for your child at school.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=E1T1PdfOSEuPbjC8TawIT3BJaE5hQ4BGiUJstzCZV9ZUNFdBNjk2QTNZQlhSMzJVS1JKTzRKRFgwNC4u>

Please inform us if this is only for certain days of the week. We will then confirm the place for your child, and they should attend school, in their full school uniform and ready to observe school rules and routines. If they are not attending when we expect them please report their absence to school in the normal way.

We will contact the parents/carers of students who have an EHCP or being supported by social care to confirm their place and whether they will be attending school.

Guidance has changed between yesterday evening and this morning and I am sure will continue to do so. I will keep you as up to date as possible. I hope be able to send some information out regarding the government's response to the cancellation of GCSE and A level examinations and also details for those attending school on Monday later today.

I apologise for the deluge of letters, all of which are written with the latest information taken into account and with the aim of keeping you informed.

Please keep yourselves and your families safe at this difficult and uncertain time.

Yours sincerely

We shall continue to work to support the students and please do contact the school through [enquiries@gmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@gmgs.walsall.sch.uk) with any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Langton'.

Richard Langton, Headteacher