



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Update to school closure letter – provision for vulnerable children and those with key workers as parents

Dear parent/carer

I am writing this letter as you have made use of the service since the school closed in March. From the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June, we will be bringing back into school more students (from Years 10/12) and I wanted to the arrangements for your provision.

Much of which follows will remain the same as before, but there are some changes (e.g. uniform requirements) and it is vital that the students stay within this group, so as to maintain the social bubble.

The basic arrangements/expectations are:

- Students will be expected on site from 9am-3pm; they enter through the main gate should report to the reception at the Collier centre (staying separate from other students)
- Lessons will not be taught; sessions will be supervised only to ensure students complete the tasks provided.
- Students may be organised in different age groups.
- Students should come with resources (including devices, which must be pre-charged) and materials to work through their pre-prepared home study materials
- Uniform is shirt sleeve order (i.e. regular school shirts/blouses, trousers/blazers and shoes, but with no blazer/tie); clean clothes each day
- Normal school rules regarding hair and make-up will apply
- Normal school rules regarding mobile telephones will apply
- Sessions may be longer as we will not operate the normal school timetable
- A packed-lunch/snacks need to be provided
- There will be significantly reduced staffing due to self-isolation / underlying health conditions
  - To help ensure that the risk of virus spread for both staff and children is as low as possible, it is important that:
    - children, parents, carers or any visitors, should not visit the school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
    - please consider how children arrive at the education or childcare setting and reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport
    - parents should not gather at the school gates
    - ensure that children wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds frequently, and are encouraged not to touch their face, while using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and using bins for tissue waste. If children or young people have trouble washing their hands, ensure help is available
- There are clear signs around the school setting out acceptable use
- Please adhere to social distancing throughout your journey to school, on the site and in the buildings
- Students should remain within the groups they are designated to, including travelling to and from school

- Phones should be switched off and placed in bags once in schools, unless required by the teaching staff
- There is no requirement for students to wear PPE
- Wash/sanitise hands on arrival and regularly throughout the day, including after break times
- Students will be expected to queue patiently and adhere to social distancing
- Whilst moving around the site, do not touch door handles if doors are already propped open
- Please remember to not touch your mouth, nose or face
- Do not linger or wait for others at the end of the day; observe social distancing and make your own way home immediately
- Students are responsible for the carrying and administering of medication

### **Advice to parents and students**

The government has issued a range of advice documents for parents and students. Can I please draw your attention to the following?

#### *General guidance for parents*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#transport>

#### *Recognising symptoms and accessing testing*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testingand-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

**It is vital that the students DO NOT attend the school if they, or a member of the household have symptoms. It is also important that you make us aware of any underlying vulnerabilities of your child or anyone living in your household.**

#### *Travel guidelines*

Please do not congregate outside the school if dropping off/collecting students. The following link includes a range of considerations on responsible travel, including specific guidance on public transport:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

#### *Social distancing for young people*

It is vital that the students adhere to the rules both on their journeys to and from school, and whilst on the site. The government recognise that this demographic is at particular risk of breaking social distancing and have produced specific guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-guidance-for-young-people>

### **Behavioural expectations**

We continue to expect the highest standards of behaviour and conduct of the students during this time. We will be issuing an updated behaviour policy and we expect that the students take heed of this. This includes respecting the personal spaces of others in the school, as well as the wider community.

Please do let us know about your requirements for the following week by midday each Friday, by emailing [enquiries@gmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@gmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

Thank you for your ongoing support at a difficult and uncertain time.

Yours sincerely



Richard Langton, Headteacher