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Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus - Academy Closures - Chatham Grammar

I am sure many of you will have heard from the Prime Minister's briefing yesterday that schools in England are to close from Friday 20th March 2020 for the foreseeable future as part of the strategy to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.

Furthermore, we understand from the briefing that the summer public examinations, for all students who have been studying hard for their exams, have been cancelled. This is devastating news for parents/carers and our students. At this time, we have no detail as to how these students will be accredited for their work and awarded their qualifications.

The requirement is for all schools to remain open for certain groups of students, including children from the categories listed below. Please note, we have yet to hear from the Department of Education as to what they mean by 'key workers' - however based on comments made today by Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, we believe it will cover the following groups. We may need to add some more groups to this list once we hear officially from the DfE.

The requirement is for all schools to remain open for certain groups of students including children from the following categories:

- Children of Health and Social Care Staff
- Children of Education and Childcare Staff
- Children of Key Public Services Staff
- Children of Local and National Government Staff
- Children of food and other necessary goods Staff
- Children of Public Safety and National Security Staff
- Children of Transport Staff
- Children of Utilities, Communication and Financial Services Staff
- Students in receipt of an Education Health Care Plan Staff
- Looked-After-Children
- Children with Child in Need Plans

- Children on Child Protection Plans
- Children who are Young Carers
- Children who are Disabled
- Children with Safeguarding and Welfare Needs

In order to plan for this, we are asking all parents and carers of Chatham Grammar students, who are listed above to complete the on-line form on our CG website.

Please click on the URL link below to complete the on-line form ASAP.

<https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/key-worker>

Please ensure that you complete the on-line form by **12 midday on Friday 20th March.**

This is an optional provision available to students in the categories above. When the provision starts the academy day will follow the usual timings; students will be able to access the site from 7:30am until 3:00pm. Students will be required to wear the full academy uniform and engage in lessons and activities across the academy. Please can you ensure that students bring their iPads fully charged, PE kits and all other learning resources.

Our caterer Caterlink will be running a full catering service including all the normal hot and cold choices served at breakfast, break and lunch times for those certain groups of students in attendance.

Students who are eligible for Free School Meals who will be attending the academy will be provided with a meal. The Government is currently developing a national scheme to provide supermarket and shop vouchers to those children eligible for Free School Meals who are not attending. We are waiting for further details of this scheme, the Trust will offer all eligible children supermarket vouchers to cover any interim period. We will contact parents and carers of eligible children with further details.

We anticipate that we will be open and able to provide the provision from early next week. As soon as we have compiled lists of those wishing to attend we will notify you of the start date.

As you are probably aware we are experiencing daily changes with notifications and directives from DFE. We will endeavour to keep you informed and updated if we have news of changes via text, email, website and social media.

Digital Learning

The staff at Chatham Grammar have been preparing work for all students using our digital learning platform Edmodo. As many schools and academies across the country will be using Edmodo as their digital platform, there is a good chance it may not be reliable and it may well crash. Our staff will therefore also email work, on a daily basis, directly to students via their UKAT email addresses. Students will also be

able to email staff via their UKAT email addresses, if they need help and support with the work set, and to send work for marking and feedback.

Clearly such methods of learning require significant focus and discipline from your child's perspective, following a daily schedule of online learning. No doubt this will require supervision by parents/carers to ensure the work is completed. We know this is a big ask given that many parents/carers will also be working from home and might have other children and relatives to look after. All we ask is that together we will do our very best to get the most out of digital learning as possible.

Year 11 and 13 students will need quite a lot of support to complete assignments and work activities. We do not yet know how GCSEs and BTECs and A level qualifications will be awarded this year but, no doubt schools will be asked for predicted grades based on work to date and that completed during this period away from the academy.

We would like to reassure our Year 11 students that we will support them in their applications to join the UKAT Sixth Form. We fully understand that our current Year 11 students have experienced a huge amount of emotional upset and upheaval in their learning. We would still like to encourage you to remain positive and enthusiastic towards your next stage of learning and we will fully support you in this process and ensure that we give you as much guidance and direction so that you can achieve your future goals.

If your child has any difficulties accessing emails or websites, then please contact our ICT Services Team using the following email address:
ICTTeam@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

If your child has any difficulties understanding the tasks set, please can we suggest they contact their individual teacher using their UKAT staff email address.

If you have any general questions or concerns, please contact us using the following office email: officecg@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

If you have any concerns regarding your child's welfare please email:
refernowcg@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please do not hesitate to email:
childprotectioncg@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

I know this is a lot to take on board, but I am sure by us working together through the weeks ahead, we will all do the best we can to ensure your child continues to make educational progress, and not be disadvantaged, by this unprecedented situation.

Kind regards

Judy Rider
CEO
University of Kent Academies Trust

