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23 March 2020

## **Re: Day One Of Heston Community School's Closure - Monday 23 March 2020**

Dear Parents/Carer

The School will use the Show My Homework [SMHW] as its platform for directing students to independent work during this prolonged absence. We are working on the following assumptions:

- The School will not be open to students until at least mid-August
- Year 13 & 11 final grades will be via a fresh teacher's Data Harvest which will be moderated against students' KS2 scores and the last three years of school progress data
- There will be a November Exam Sitting for those who disagree with the grades [too late to influence any decisions that universities or schools make due to the grades]
- Year 12 & 10 will sit their exams as normal, in Summer 2021, with no special considerations applying
- Years 7 - 9 will be set standard Whole Year Group lessons for each subject

I would like to remind parents that:

- There is a range of activities to be completed in their books and online assessments
- They might not be set by their normal teacher but is will be by a subject specialist
- Normal teachers are available for support 09:00 - 11:00 each day via email
- We need your support to ensure there is an expectation that your child is learning a minimum of five hours a day

We appreciate that students, parents and teachers will find it extremely difficult to sustain such a focus, especially when some family members may be experiencing poor health. However, initial estimates make it seem very likely that your child will be missing nearly half a year of formal schooling and they will not return to School before the next academic year starts.

It is crucial that parents take the lead in both setting and enforcing high expectations. Where students are not able to complete all work because they require more help, they should email their teachers for support - [[name@hestoncs.org](mailto:name@hestoncs.org)]. However, parents and family members will undoubtedly need to do far more than they have ever done before to ensure their child does not fall behind.

 **Specialist Visual Arts Academy**

Where they do, the spirit of the work set must be tackled independently and sustained week after week. Without parental support to encourage, challenge and remain steadfast, even in the face of student apathy or reluctance, your child's education will be negatively affected. Today is day one of an extremely challenging period in our community's education. Everyone must rise to the challenge to mitigate the time lost in school.

As a School we will do our very best to remain open for those who need it the most. The School will be open between 09:00 – 14:30 for a small number of Heston Community School students, who have already been contacted by staff and will attend in full uniform. Additionally, where parents can provide proof that they are one of the government's defined 'Key Workers', two members of staff will supervise child care with access to SMHW and the teaching materials which have been placed there. Our community should be aware that this situation is affecting School staff and their families in the same way as it is affecting others across the country. With this in mind, we will be reviewing our staffing position regularly and will maintain our provision when we have the capacity to do so safely. This is why we have asked families that they only send their child to School if their situation is critical and fits the very strict criteria below.

**The Government advice is very clear:**

**“If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be. 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.” In short, this weekend's advice is that everyone should remain at home and not go out unless it is absolutely vital.**

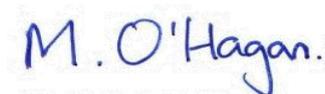
School staff will be contacting certain students on a weekly basis to support and monitor the engagement with the work the School has placed online. After the Easter holidays, Learning Coordinators will be contacting parents to investigate where students have not been engaging with the work set on SMHW. Please help wherever you can by supporting the School. We are publishing a booklet produced by our Head of English that provides excellent guidance for us all as we cope with the isolation that accompanies the Government's strategy in dealing with the Coronavirus.

Once again I would like to thank all our families for the way in which you have pulled together as a community.

On behalf of the all of the School's staff and Governors, I wish you all the very best.

The School will send out any updates through its website and alert you via a text that this been published.

Yours faithfully



**Mike O'Hagan**  
**Deputy Headteacher**