



St Katherine's School



Thursday 19 March

Dear Parents/Carers,

### COVID 19 update

Following my letter dated Tuesday 17 March detailing partial closure, **the decision has now been made to close the school from the end of today, Thursday 19 March until further notice.** The decision has been made to preserve the safety of staff and students on site as increasing numbers of staff need to follow government and Public Health England advice.

We understand there may be some childcare issues for parents/carers who are key workers, and for students with Educational Health Care Plans. **We recognise the importance of trying to maintain 8am-4pm provision for these families and we will continue to be open for these students.** We are awaiting confirmation from the DfE to confirm the full details of these arrangements. Please email our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Crocker ([crockerk@skdrive.org](mailto:crockerk@skdrive.org)) if this is a concern. We will continue to work with the local authority and within our CST family of schools to ensure support is provided for those who need it as detailed by government announcements.

We have been in touch with the North Bristol and Clevedon District Food banks and have processed referral forms yesterday to allow families to access additional supplies. In addition, we have been in touch with Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council to confirm with them how best families can access emergency or crisis funds. We are working with our catering suppliers and local agencies to ensure those entitled to free school meals continue to receive their entitlement. Please contact Mrs Ball [ballj@skdrive.org](mailto:ballj@skdrive.org) if you need help to access these services and we will make arrangements to support families.

As a community, we are still digesting the news relating to the cancellation of Year 11 and Year 13 exams in the summer. With students and staff having worked so hard together to prepare for their final exams, it is arousing many emotions. We have taken time to talk with Year 11 and Year 13 today to reassure them through this time of uncertainty and reflect on the vast body of knowledge they have acquired through their years of studying. Exams, after all, reflect a grade from one day and lifelong learning is far more valuable. When we receive final clarification of the awarding of grades, we will of course communicate this immediately to parents/carers and students. In particular, please reassure Year 11 and Year 13 students that we will be in touch with useful guidance as soon as possible, for you and them; please explain to them that their subject teachers **will not be in a position** to say anything new this week. This is clearly a constantly changing situation and it will be important that our students keep working until we know the plan from the DfE.

Headteacher: Justin Humphreys

St Katherine's School, Ham Green, North Somerset BS20 OHU

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St Katherine's School @stkathsschool

Please be patient with all my colleagues if you do not receive immediate replies or new systems have teething problems; trying to provide learning for a range of family circumstances, across all subjects, abilities and ages will undoubtedly cause some initial challenges. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through the usual [school@skdrive.org](mailto:school@skdrive.org), your child's tutor or Head of House. There will be regular communication, including our weekly comms, from the school during the closure to help keep a sense of community, to share important information and any relevant updates. Please take time to read this carefully each week and access our new website specifically designed to help us all. I hope you and your child/children find it useful.

<https://sites.google.com/skdrive.org/st-kaths-school-community/home?authuser=0>.

This is an unprecedented event for all of us; there is no way of knowing exactly when St Katherine's will resume as normal. I understand this is unsettling for us all and may create further significant anxiety amongst students and parents/carers. We will continue to monitor developments closely each day and will keep everyone updated through our website, social media and direct communication.

Yours sincerely



Justin Humphreys  
**Headteacher**

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