



SPALDING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headmaster: S M Wilkinson BSc

Dear Parents

I am writing further to this evening's announcement by the Secretary of State for Education that all schools will close at the end of this week, and for the foreseeable future, to all but vulnerable children and those of key workers.

At this point, sadly, I know no more than any of you have heard on the news, and so I can provide nothing in answer to the many questions I am sure you have and which the Prime Minister did very little to answer. We have been promised more guidance over the coming days.

We have been preparing for this eventuality and I shall write again tomorrow with more details of how the School intends to respond to the closure notice; however, for the moment, there are some matters that I need to bring to your attention:

1. I previously wrote about the need for students to begin to empty their lockers and take the contents home to support them in the event of closure. If your child has not yet cleared their locker, then they **must bring a suitable bag with them tomorrow** to enable them to do so.
2. Students have already checked in school that they can access their school email accounts through Office 365. This will be vital for the receipt of work (about which I shall give more detail tomorrow). They **must now check that they have access to their Microsoft OneDrive** at home. If not, they should take the opportunity to speak to the IT Support staff before the end of the week.
3. The Secretary announced that examinations for Years 11 and 13 would not take place. That is disappointing and I know that it will be a concern to a great many students and parents. That said, students do still have to prepare for the next phase of education/employment and it is important that this is not seen as a get-out of doing any work across the next couple of days or during the closure period, and I would ask for your support in reinforcing that message. The Prime Minister has said that "pupils will get the qualifications they need"; however, what that looks like I do not know. It is possible that students will need to complete an assessment when schools reopen, in which case they will need to be prepared; if not, it is certain that we will be asked to provide grades and references.
4. We will be open as normal tomorrow – Thursday. At present, our planning suggests that we will have sufficient staff available to operate as normal on Friday as well; however, I must alert you to the possible need for partial closure (that is, to certain Year groups) should circumstances change. If that needs to happen, I will notify parents as soon as is possible.

As I said, I will write again tomorrow, at which point I shall give fuller detail about how the School will set work for students during closure, our expectations of students during that period, the support we need from home as well as the support available from the School, and how the School will maintain communication with you.

These are unprecedented times and I thank you in advance for working with us as we feel our way through them.

Yours sincerely

S Wilkinson

S M Wilkinson
Headmaster

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