



# SPALDING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headmaster: S M Wilkinson BSc

Dear Parents

I am writing further to my letter of last night, to give some more specific information about how the School will operate during closure period. Firstly, I take this opportunity to confirm that we will be **fully open for all Year groups tomorrow**.

## Key Workers

Although the School will cease normal function at 3.30pm tomorrow, it is right that we do our part during these times of crisis to ensure that those with key roles to play in working against this virus or in maintaining society are able to do that job; as such, the school closure will not apply to a predetermined cohort of children. However, it is important to recognise that the principle of "social distancing" and the principle of keeping school open for some children are not entirely compatible. For that reason, **children of key workers must attend school only if their remaining at home would prevent the key worker from working**; where another parent is at home to look after the child, or the child is old enough to be left alone (for examples), the child should not come to school. Of course, should the child present with any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, they should also not be sent to school; we will continue to contact home and request the immediate collection of a student if they present during the day.

In order to aid our planning, we have already asked students today for information regarding the jobs their parents do; however, this does not give us the full picture. Parents are asked, if they qualify as key workers and require their child to attend school during the closure period, to notify the School (by email to [enquiries@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk)) **no later than 1pm tomorrow, Friday 20 March**.

We are still waiting for the official list of key workers, which is due out of Government today; however, it is anticipated that it will cover:

- Medical professionals – doctors, nurses and other health workers
- Community safety – police officers and firefighters
- Education – teachers and support staff
- Supermarket operatives – store workers and delivery drivers
- Critical infrastructure – gas and electric engineers

For those students who are in school, it is not fair that they should be either advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the others who are remaining at home. On that basis, they will not be taught as per a normal timetable, but will be supervised in the completion of the same work that those at home have been sent. We do not require students to wear school uniform and we shall structure the day to ensure there are breaks and the opportunity for physical exercise. We shall provide a catering service; however, that will be reduced and students will be asked to order in advance such that we do not waste food. In the interests of minimising risk, there will be specific requirements on students in terms of entry/exit points, accessible areas, and handwashing.

## Setting of Work

On the matter of setting work, the same will apply to all students. Students will be sent work to their school email account, along with instructions for completion, submission, marking and feedback (where appropriate). The principle we are applying is that students will receive 30-minutes' worth of work for every timetabled lesson they would normally have, but that will probably be sent as a block, depending on the subject. It is important in these circumstances that students plan their days carefully. With this letter is a Guide to Home Study, which gives fuller detail and advice.

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It is important that, given the uncertainty over examinations (to which I shall return), students continue to work towards those qualifications as normal. That is particularly the case in subjects where there are NEAs to complete – it is entirely possible that these may be required by examination boards as part of the allocation of grades.

We are taking steps to ensure that students are able to access any electronic files that currently exist on the School's systems. The IT Support staff will, across the coming days, be making bulk transfers of students' H: drives (on the school network) to their O: drives (Microsoft OneDrive). Please note that this will be staggered to enable the system to cope, so do not worry if these files do not appear immediately. If students have any difficulties, [ITSupport@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:ITSupport@spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk) will still be responding during closure.

## **Examinations**

I do not like being placed in a position where I am trying to reassure students and parents but do not have the information available to be able to do so. Sadly, that is the position I am in with reference to the GCSE and A Level examinations. Schools have been promised further clarification and guidance from the Department for Education tomorrow; once I have that, I shall contact those affected parents again. For now, all I know is that students are, somehow, going to get the qualifications they need. The method, the outcome and the implication I simply am not able to say; however, when I know the way forward, please be assured that the School will work to ensure that no student is disadvantaged.

## **Communication**

During the closure period, the School will continue to be contactable by telephone and email and we will continue to contact parents through ParentMail. We have also set up a dedicated page on the school website to provide important information specific to the closure period.

Once again, I thank parents in advance for their patience, support and understanding in these very trying and uncertain times.

Yours sincerely



S M Wilkinson  
Headmaster