

19 March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

You will have watched the Prime Minister last night telling the country that schools will close on Friday. For us this is both destabilising and a relief.

It's a relief because we are currently trying to open with a skeleton staff – we have over 25 teachers 'self-isolating'. This obviously puts a huge strain on the remaining staff, and therefore closing the school is inevitable.

However, it is destabilising because Nobelians will lose precious time with their teachers, and students in year 11 and year 13 are desperately concerned about the examinations that they might not now be able to take.

We can make the following commitments to you:

1. Our staff will set and monitor work on a day-to-day basis via Show My Homework. Year 11 and 13 should continue to work as hard as they were, even if there are no examinations, they will still need this knowledge to move on to their next phase. We will also use this work to help us make final predicted grades. Here a link to help you with working from home:
<http://thenobelschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Working-from-home-guidance-for-families.pdf>
2. If examinations do not take place, we will offer places in the sixth form based on a final predicted grade, I shall ask staff to be optimistic, within reason, about these grades
3. We will support our students who are looking to progress to college or university. Again, we are unsure of the mechanisms that the government is recommending for this but we will, if necessary predict realistic grades.
4. We will, for the time being, offer a skeleton timetable at school for students - starting on Monday 23rd March - of key workers e.g. NHS or the police. However, we will only offer this service if parents require it. Here is the link to a questionnaire:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mZLfypinuE6tZpGvDONWc41X80v_PntCnHjW3NtvDIBUMIZaTDI5TVFQRTMzNDkxR1pXSDhUVTa5Qj4u



There are some things we are still trying to work out. For example, how the school might provide free school meals. As soon as we know more about this we will liaise with you.

Arrangements for tomorrow

The school will be open to all year groups until 12:15, however, we would ask that **year 11 stay for lunch, an assembly and 'shirt signing'**. At 1:15 the school will close, taking point 4 into consideration, until further notice.

These are very challenging times for all of us, thank you for your amazing support, it is a privilege to be the Headteacher of this wonderful school and to be part of this lovely community.

Please take care, it is vitally important that we stay at home and that young people do not gather outside in parks, precincts etc. so that we can protect older relatives and people with underlying health issues

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martyn Henson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martyn Henson
Headteacher
The Nobel School