

Our Ref: SRc/SRc

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Further to our recent communications we are writing to update you regarding the impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 on The Marvell College, in light of recent Government announcements which have moved the situation forward significantly.

The key messages as things stand are as follows:

- Schools across the UK, including The Marvell College will be **closed to the vast majority of students** from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice.
- The government has asked parents to **keep their children at home**, wherever possible, stating there is **no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school**.
- Parents should also do everything they can to **ensure children are not mixing socially** in a way which can continue to spread the virus.
- Very limited on-site provision for a minority of specifically identified students will continue **where possible**.
- Examinations in May and June are **cancelled**.

### **What does this mean for parents and families?**

#### **On-site provision**

We remain committed to supporting children and families with specific needs but must balance this with our own obligations to minimise the risks associated with maintaining an on-site provision which have been clearly outlined to us. **To be clear, this will not be like a normal school experience**. Students will be expected to complete their remote curriculum booklets that we are posting out to all students in Years 7, 8 & 9, using on-site IT where it is available, and supported by an appropriate staff presence, although this is highly unlikely to involve subject specialists. Nor can we guarantee consistency of staff at this very difficult time.

#### **The students eligible for this provision will be:**

##### **Children in Years 7-9 of parents who are key workers**

It is important to clarify that this relates to families where parents are key workers, and on the occasion where shifts, for example, mean they are unable to provide a safe environment at home between them. Given the need to minimise the associated risks as outlined above, we are only able to accommodate a small number of young people with the greatest need. To this end we have identified those in Years 7-9 on the basis that older students in Years 10 and above have generally developed the independence and maturity to be at home without supervision.

Please check the following central government website for a list of those who have been identified as key workers. If you are at all unsure as to whether you may be classed as a key worker, please follow the advice provided and seek guidance from your employer directly.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As a matter of urgency to plan for demand for this service, we ask that any parents/carers who feel they may have a need to access it, provide their details through a short survey which is available through the website or can be taken here:

<https://forms.gle/1V45JDJLW1mtgMBF8>

If you are unable to complete this survey online, please come to the Main Reception in school to collect a form if it is safe to do so.

***It is important this survey is completed by no later than 1:30pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.***

#### **Vulnerable students:**

We will contact families and relevant agencies directly where students have been identified in this cohort, following guidance from the Government.

#### **Remote Learning**

As outlined in a previous communication, in order to support students that no longer have access to the curriculum on site we have developed resources for all pupils so they can work from home. For pupils in Years 7-9 we will be posting these booklets out today.

Year 10 pupils will be able to access work posted, where possible, by their classroom teacher on a lesson by lesson basis. They will do this through an online platform called Class Notebook. Details of how to access this have been shared with pupils and are also available on our website. We acknowledge that not all families might have access to the internet so paper copies of work for Year 10 students will also be sent out. Assuming our staffing allowance, we will continue to send work out to families on a regular basis. We expect to be able to supply work to pupils covering the school weeks up to the Easter holidays, and will review the situation daily/weekly thereafter.

It is expected that all students continue to work through their timetable as if they were in school and work will be set accordingly. We have produced guidance and tips for working remotely that will be available through our website and also circulated to parents this week.

We are actively seeking other alternative educational resources that pupils might be able to access remotely, including Reading Cloud, which we hope will give access to key texts and reading books. Details of such resources and how to access them will be shared with you via our website, twitter account and, where possible, text message.

We strongly encourage space for breaks and time outdoors (following Government advice) consistent with our school day and we will have mechanisms to maintain contact through our pastoral systems to support student well-being and address any concerns or anxieties. There will be guidance and advice through the core PE lessons to engage in regular physical activity, which is strongly linked to well-being and health and something we wholeheartedly encourage.

## **Examination cancellations**

We acknowledge and share the deep frustration and concern that the announcement to cancel examinations has brought. It is not yet clear what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that students obtain the qualifications that they have worked so hard for, however we are firmly reassured by the Government and Ofqual that no student will be disadvantaged. We will ensure that all influence is exerted to impact positively on the outcomes our students receive and will post regular updates through the sharing platform to students and through our website and social media feeds to parents.

It is essential that the work ethic and commitment to study is maintained for our examination cohorts and we ask that you support students to remain fully focused at this time. Success in the next steps they take in education, employment or further training will be reliant upon the robust body of knowledge and skills that they continue to develop and refine.

As we are sure you will agree, these are unprecedented times but we remain absolutely committed to supporting the children and families we serve through this time of great uncertainty. We will ensure that any students who are eligible for free school meals will be provided for, and will contact those families affected directly in the coming days to outline the details.

We will continue to provide updates through twitter and our website over the coming days and weeks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Senior Leadership Team and staff of The Marvell College