



West Hatch High School

A Specialist Business and Enterprise School

Headteacher: Mr D Leonard BSc (Hons), Med

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18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are aware that there is due to be an announcement at 5pm tonight in light of the news that Scotland and Wales are closing schools from Friday. However, I have taken the decision today that **Year 8 pupils will not be able to attend school from tomorrow, Thursday 19th March until further notice.** This is because, as a result of the Governments advice regarding the Coronavirus and subsequent staff absences, we will not be able to continue to maintain a high enough quality of education, safety and wellbeing for our students. This year group has been selected as it enables parents to continue to attend work and also fits in with the needs of the school with regards to timetabling.

By removing this year group from school I am able, for the time being, to staff the vast majority of classes with subject specialist teachers for all other years. I do expect **all other students to be in school** unless they are self-isolating as set out within the Government guidelines below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

The link above also outlines the Government's request for social distancing and we must request all Year 8 students to stay at home and practice social distancing as advised by Public Health England.

Finally, we are making decisions on a day by day basis based on advice and the school's ability to function. All other schools in the area and indeed country are being faced with similar decisions, with many either closing with the exception of Year 11/13 or closing completely. I will keep parents informed as much as possible, however please be aware that should staffing levels continue to decrease or the number of students attending school makes our work untenable, I will need to further reduce numbers in school. I will do all I can to inform you with notice should this decision be made.

Key Information

- All year groups, other than Year 8 should attend in full school uniform, with the correct equipment and attend lessons as usual.
- Teachers of Year 8 will set adequate and appropriate work via Show My Homework. We have advised staff to plan activities using our extensive range of online resources.
- You do not need a password to log onto this system. Please use the link here: <https://westhatch.satchelone.com/school/homeworks/calendar>
- Students must complete their work and email the requested assessments back to their teacher. Teachers' emails will be sent to parents.
- If students and parents and carers have difficulty logging in, please e-mail password@westhatch.net and let us know the software you are locked out of and the name and year group of the student. We will try and get you back online ASAP. Requests have to come from a



parent email address that we hold on our school database. If this isn't possible you may be asked to confirm further security information.

- **Students are not required to print work.** Please ask students to email work back to staff via the school or their personal email.
- Students who use a mac at home should be reminded to save the work as a word document as staff are unable to open documents saved in the native mac format i.e. Pages
- We would encourage parents and students to explore beyond the work set by staff and accessing the many resources on Doodle, Sam Learning and BBC Bitesize would be beneficial.
- We would also encourage reading for pleasure. Wider reading is a proven key to success. Whether fiction, non-fiction, books, magazines or graphic novels.

Thank you as always for your support in this matter

Yours sincerely,

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

Daniel Leonard
Headteacher