

19 March 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As you know, the Government has announced the closure of all schools across England from Friday because of the coronavirus epidemic. All schools, including Goldington Academy, will be closed 'until further notice'.

At the forefront of our minds is the announcement that all exams in May and June have been cancelled. We have been informed that the Government 'will work with the sector and the exams watchdog Ofqual to ensure children get the qualifications they need.' There is still a great deal of uncertainty over what that actually means and we hope to provide some clarity as and when we are in a position to do so. I would, however like to take this opportunity to recognise how unsettling and stressing this is for our Year 11 cohort who have worked so hard for so long in preparation for these exams. With this lack of clarity, I would strongly suggest that they continue to spend their time learning, as there is no confirmation at this time that the examinations will not take place at all.

While your child is at home, irrespective of which year they are in, we would expect them to continue their learning. To facilitate this, all teachers will be setting homework in all subjects on Showmyhomework. Your child has been reminded of all the log-ins that they will need (e.g. Mymaths, SMHW etc) but please do take some time tonight to check that they can access everything they need. If your child experiences difficulties with logging onto any software, please contact our tech department via email: techsupport@goldington.beds.sch.uk. All staff will be accessing their emails on a daily basis (during normal term times) should you or your child need to communicate directly with them; email addresses are available on the website and take the following format: fearont@goldington.beds.sch.uk.

Please remember that if your child is in Year 10 or 11, they have access to GCSE Pod. Most GCSE and vocational subjects have a huge amount of accessible content that is all relevant to your child.

Additionally, Twinkl, a site full of KS3 and KS4 resources is offering parents a free month's trial to help children learning at home. Visit www.twinkl.co.uk/offer and enter the code PARENTSTWINKLHELPS to set up your free month of Twinkl Ultimate.



If your child has informed us that they do not have access to either a computer or the internet, we will be sending them home with a pack tomorrow.

Finally, it is our intention to keep school open for pupils in Years 7-9 on a skeleton staff to provide support for the children of key workers such as NHS staff, police and delivery drivers, if no other option is available to you. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 are encouraged to revise at home; there will not be a teaching timetable available for them. If you have not already done so, we would be very grateful if you could either return the attached reply slip with your child tomorrow, or email fearont@goldington.beds.sch.uk stating your name, your occupation and the name of your child. Further communication will be sent to those relevant parties during the day tomorrow.

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FAO: Ms Fearon

Name of child: _____ **Form Group:** ____

- My child has an EHCP and I would like my child to continue attending school

- I am a key worker as identified by the Government (e.g, NHS, emergency services, social care, food distribution) and I would like my child to continue attending school

Parent/carer Job Title: _____