

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/carer

Thank you for your continued support in recent days and weeks as we have worked to manage our response to the emerging situation with COVID-19. We wanted to write to update you that in line with Government direction our school will close to students and staff with effect from the end of the school day tomorrow, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We understand that this decision will create a good deal of uncertainty for everyone and we are doing our best to minimise this wherever possible. Our staff are absolutely committed to doing the very best for all of our students and we will continue to communicate with you and your son/daughter throughout the period of closure. We are writing to Year 11 and 13 parents/carers separately relating to the cancellation of this year's examinations.

#### Restricted opening for the children of identified Key Workers

If your son/daughter is in Year 7 or 8 you will already have been sent the questionnaire earlier this week asking if you or another parent/carer is employed within the emergency services or another core service area. You do not need to reply again and we will be in touch with our arrangements for educational provision for these students later today.

If your son/daughter is in Years 9-13 and you are employed in a "key worker" role we would ask that you complete the questionnaire linked here **as soon as possible** and ideally by 1pm today (Thursday). The link is here: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8LwY-o\\_qOkmzxzJs7i2JZ-lfxBRoSJpAqPnLXIW99cBUM05QVTcwWUNZVkpFOTZHNjRWRTNOS1AyWi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8LwY-o_qOkmzxzJs7i2JZ-lfxBRoSJpAqPnLXIW99cBUM05QVTcwWUNZVkpFOTZHNjRWRTNOS1AyWi4u)

We will write to the affected parents/carers later today with details of the provision we will be making for these students, should your family choose to access this.

#### Communication with parents/carers

We will continue to use Insight, the school's Facebook pages and our website to communicate with parents/carers during the closure period. Staff will be in contact with students using their school email addresses and online software/resources such as Edmodo. We have been instructing all students for a while now to ensure that they can access all of the e-learning platforms we use and that they regularly check their school email. Students must **only** email staff using their CRGS school email address at any time. Should your son/daughter need to reset their school email or Moodle passwords whilst the school is closed they should email [administrator@crgs.org.uk](mailto:administrator@crgs.org.uk).

Work will be set regularly by your son/daughter's teachers, as long as they are well. We would advise that your son/daughter use their school timetable as a basis for home study and work through the tasks set in hourly blocks, following the school timetable as closely as possible.

If your son/daughter does not have set work for a particular lesson they could complete a task from one of the attached Learning Challenge grids (Year 10-13). Year 10 students have been issued with an

A5 independent learning booklet of tasks for every subject area. In addition you and your son/daughter may find these resources useful:

FREE online education resources

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

BBC Learning

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/>

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

Futurelearn

<https://www.futurelearn.com>

Free to access 100s of courses, only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account).

Seneca

<https://www.senecalearning.com>

For those revising at GCSE or A level. Tons of free revision content. Paid access to higher level material.

Openlearn

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment courses could well be of interest to young people.

Blockly

<https://blockly.games>

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming

Ted Ed

<https://ed.ted.com>

All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Duolingo

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

<https://mysteryscience.com>

Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com>

Wide range of cool educational videos

Crash Course

<https://thecrashcourse.com>

You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids

<https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

As above for a younger audience

Crest Awards

<https://www.crestawards.org>

Science awards you can complete from home.

iDEA Awards

<https://idea.org.uk>

Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

Paw Print Badges

<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad

<https://www.tinkercad.com>

All kinds of making.

Nature Detectives

<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>

A lot of these can be done in a garden, or if you can get to a remote forest location!

Big History Project

<https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>

Multi-disciplinary activities.

Geography Games

<https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>

Geography gaming!

Blue Peter Badges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

If you have a stamp and a nearby post box.

The Artful Parent

<https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/>

Good, free art activities

DK Find Out

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/?fbclid=IwAR2wJdpSJSelTf4do6aPhff8A3tAktmpaxqZbkgudD49I71ep8-sjXmrac>

Activities and quizzes

Twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.

Please note that these are external websites and are not routinely screened by the school. We would ask that you use the appropriate caution when downloading resources to your computer or following links within web pages.

It is also worth remembering that reading a novel or a high quality non-fiction book is a very worthwhile learning activity in itself whilst also providing an opportunity for much-needed respite from current events.

Staff who are well will be working remotely **during school hours**. We ask that all students and parents/carers **do not contact staff outside the school opening hours of 8.45-3.45pm** to enable teachers to have time to plan learning and resources as well as have time to care for their own families at this very difficult time.

The mainschool@crgs.org.uk and sixthform@crgs.org.uk email addresses will be checked daily and we will respond to emails sent to these addresses as soon as is possible.

#### Trips and visits

Once school re-opens we will be in touch with parents/carers regarding the situation for all postponed and cancelled visits. We are currently liaising with our insurers, as appropriate, regarding each visit.

#### Medical needs

If your son/daughter has non-controlled medication stored within school this has been returned to them today to bring home. This is in line with guidance we have received as there may be interrupted supplies during our period of closure and we want to ensure your son/daughter has access to the medication they need. In addition, if the school were to remain closed for an extended period some medications may pass their expiry date. When school does re-open please contact us to arrange for us to store the medication safely again.

If your son/daughter takes controlled medication which is stored within the school this will be returned securely directly to you as the parent/carer.

#### Examinations and external assessments

We are closely following updates from Ofqual and the awarding bodies in relation to the forthcoming examination period and will communicate with the parents/carers and students of the year groups concerned as soon as we have any information to share.

#### Student support

If your son/daughter is eligible for free school meals you will have received a separate email from us regarding provision for this during school closure.

If the current situation means that your family will experience significant hardship please do consult the Financial Assistance section of the website where guidance is available regarding additional support available to families. This can be found here: <http://www.crgs.org.uk/parents/financial-assistance/>.

If you would like to alert us to any concerns regarding the emotional or physical health or wellbeing of any CRGS student during the school closure period please email [mainschool@crgs.org.uk](mailto:mainschool@crgs.org.uk) or [sixthform@crgs.org.uk](mailto:sixthform@crgs.org.uk) and mark your email **CONFIDENTIAL For the attention of the DSL**. This is the Designated Safeguarding Lead on each site. We have a team of DSLs who will be responding to concerns and supporting students remotely during this period of closure.

We realise that many young people receive a great deal of support from school and their peers. During this period of closure you may find the attached list of sources of support useful.


#### Latest guidance

The latest Government advice and guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

We would like to thank all parents/carers for their continued support, understanding and flexibility during this difficult period. We look forward to welcoming your son/daughter back into school when this is possible and to then continuing with the rest of the academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mr J M Keulemans  
Headteacher



Mrs C S Reeves  
Head of Main School



Mrs K L Johnston  
Head of Sixth Form