



Rossett School

Success for everyone

18 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your continuing understanding and support this week. We have been able to run our curriculum, fully staffed so far this week, thanks to the flexibility of our teaching and support staff. However, as the guidance to individuals changes, we have arrived at the time when we will have to move to partial closure as a result of further staff absences. We will continue to keep you updated of any changes to patterns of attendance for specific year groups via email, the school website and Twitter. Please check for these communications daily in order to find out which year groups are in school.

Partial School Closure (from Thursday 19th March 2020)

Date	Year Groups Expected in School
Thursday 19 th March 2020	Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and Year 13.
Friday 20 th March 2020	Years 7, 8, 10, 11 and Year 13.

Work Sent Home: What Can I Expect, as a Parent/Carer?

Our aim is to continue to provide learning for all our students. For this partial closure and if any future whole school closure becomes necessary, we have already trained staff and students on the use of Microsoft Office 365 Teams' function for the setting and receiving of work. This is our preferred option for communication and maintaining the timetable. If this system cannot function for any technical reason, our well-established 'Show My Homework' system will be used to send work home.

We ask that you encourage students to complete the work within the timings of a 'normal school day' as the work will appear on the Assignments list according to the time it would have been set if the students were at school.

We know that routines will be difficult in the home setting, but remote learning will only work if students and families take responsibility for the completion of these activities. For each period of the school day teachers will:

- supply instructions of work to be completed;
- supply learning resources for students to use;
- provide feedback where possible and appropriate.

We are using the 'Assignment' function of Microsoft Office 365 Teams as our remote learning interface between teachers and students. Today, the students have received an assembly explaining this process and they have also had the opportunity to work through an example 'Assignment' in their PSHE lesson. The attached 'Student - Guide to Assignments on Teams' gives step-by-step instructions on how to access this facility.

Additionally, all students will be able to contact teachers for teaching and learning advice and guidance throughout the period of school closure. We would like students to use the 'chat' function of Microsoft Office 365 Teams to do this. The attached 'Student - Guide to Asking Your Teacher for Help' explains how to do this.

www.rossettschool.co.uk

Rossett School, Green Lane, Harrogate HG2 9JP T: 01423 564444 F: 01423 502301 E: office@rossettschool.co.uk

Finally, should any students have technical difficulties during a period of remote learning, we would ask them to e-mail our specialist IT Support Team (studenthelp@rossettschool.co.uk). One of our IT technicians will then respond with the necessary support.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Students have had specific advice given today regarding the support groups, websites and text-based helplines that exist to help them combat feelings of anxiety that may result from worrying about examinations or the current national coverage of the pandemic.

- Kooth – a free, online counselling service available at www.kooth.com
- Buzz Us – run by Compass Buzz and specific to young people from North Yorkshire; this is a text messaging service that connects students to a 'well-being' advisor on 07520631 168 <https://www.compass-uk.org/buzz-us/>
- Young Minds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- NHS Every Mind Matters - <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/>
- Give us a Shout - <https://www.giveusashout.org/>
- The Mix - <https://www.themix.org.uk/>
- Nightline - <https://www.nightline.ac.uk/>

Events and Cancellations

All clubs, societies, after-school interventions/detentions and fixtures have been reviewed and cancelled. The late bus will not run from Rossett School until further notice. Effectively, school finishes at 3.10 p.m. from this point onwards.

Other non-essential trips and events have been either postponed or cancelled: students have been informed of these changes if they are involved in the activity (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Silver practice expedition, the American Exchange and the Naples Trip). Further information regarding future trips that are already in the calendar will be released in the next two weeks.

Examinations

We are aware of some anxiety in our older students regarding their external examinations this year. Students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have been told today that we are awaiting further guidance from OfQUAL regarding the summer examination season and any proposed changes to the existing schedule. We will pass on this information to students and parents/carers as soon as it becomes available.

Public Service and Essential Workers

If you are a parent or carer who currently works in an essential service (hospitals and the health service; fire service; police; etc.) and you believe that you will have difficulty in arranging childcare during a partial or whole school closure, please inform us by emailing response@rossettschool.co.uk.

I am sure that you will understand that in these rapidly changing times, with new advice appearing daily, planning for each day is a complex activity. I would ask for your understanding and support for the staff here at Rossett who are endeavouring to maintain the quality of educational provision in challenging times.

Thank you.
Yours Sincerely



H Woodcock
Headteacher

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