



Malton School

A Specialist Science School

SUPPORT INSPIRE THRIVE

19th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Coronavirus Response Update

I am writing my third letter to you in five working days with further updates on the rapidly developing situation concerning the Coronavirus outbreak and our response to it, based upon the latest advice from the government.

The school will close for most students from the end of the day tomorrow, Friday 20th March, for the foreseeable future. There is no specified end date for this period of closure but it is likely to be through to the end of May, and possibly even through to the end of the academic year.

The school will remain open for a small number of students with identified specific additional needs and those whose parents are working in identified front-line or essential services, and who have requested that their child/ren can attend school in order to allow them to go to work and perform their public service.

For the next two weeks up until the normal Easter holiday (due to start on 4th April), these students will follow the normal curriculum when at school, using the same lesson materials and tasks that are going to be put on line using Showbie by all their usual teachers. During the Easter holidays our Sports Centre team will operate a daily sports club, as they have often done in the past, again to provide support to the children of identified front-line or essential workers. These sessions will be free of charge.

Thank you to all parents who have responded to our request for information if you feel that you do fit into the essential worker categories. If you haven't responded but feel that you should be considered and that you want support for your child to attend school from next week, please do contact Miss Davison (lcd@maltonschool.org) as soon as possible tomorrow.

The government confirmed last night that the summer GCSE, A Level, Applied General and Technical examinations have all been cancelled. Students in Year 11 and Year 13, and their parents, will all want to know the details of how their final grades will be awarded. As yet schools have not been made aware of the exact mechanism for this, but my personal expectation would be that there will be some process agreed for the use of teacher assessment and the projected grades to form the basis of the final certificates awarded. As soon as we have more details on this we will confirm them for you.

There are a number of further details and more minor points that I need to bring to your attention or follow up from my letter of 17th March. These are as follows:

- If your son or daughter currently has peripatetic music lessons and you would like these to continue, please confirm that with Mr Woodrow (pjw@maltonschool.org). Mr Woodrow has written to make the offer of music lessons continuing via Skype if you are prepared to allow your contact details to be shared with the relevant peripatetic music teacher. This must be a positive or active consent on your part to agree to this, it can't be an assumed consent. So please respond to Mr Woodrow if you want this to be arranged.
- I can confirm that the NHS want both the normal Breast Screening service and the Blood Donor service to continue at the Sports Centre as previously scheduled.
- Our IT technician team have been round the entire school carrying out minor repairs and supplying replacement chargers to ensure that every student has a working iPad. This is the core piece of equipment that each student will need over the coming weeks to continue their school work. If you do need technical support during this period of school closure please contact Mr Goodyear (axg@maltonschool.org) or Mr Ferrari (dxs@maltonschool.org) for advice.
- Thank you for all the parental responses to the letter of 17th March. It is very good to know that we now have 100% internet coverage at home across the whole student body, even though it is intermittent in one or two places. If the study experience for your child over the next week turns out to be excessively hindered by poor quality internet access, please do contact the IT team via the email addresses above to see if we can provide any additional support.
- The IT team have been round all student groups in the last 2 days to ensure that students have enabled their school email access on their iPads. I would ask that your son/daughter checks their school email address twice a day – once in the morning and again in the afternoon – for key messages that we may send out.
- We have decided to provide Free School Meals to all eligible students via a Voucher system. If there are any other parents who feel that their child may be entitled to free school meals, please contact Miss Davison (lcd@maltonschool.org) as a matter of urgency tomorrow morning. All vouchers are in the process of being mailed out to homes. The school will issue more after the Easter holidays, as we know more about the length of the ongoing school closure. If your circumstances change in the months ahead please do get in touch with Miss Davison to see what support we might be able to give.

Our Faculty Leaders have access to the Showbie codes for the teaching groups within their Faculty. If you have any concerns with the work being set in a particular class I would ask that you contact the class teacher directly in the first instance (via the list of staff email addresses shared with you in September) to see if it can be resolved quickly. If you have an ongoing concern that is not resolved, please do go to the relevant Faculty Leader next to see if they can sort it out. The list of Faculty Leaders and subjects are given below:

Faculty Leader	Email	Subjects
Mrs Wilcock	cjw@maltonschool.org	English / French
Mr Muir	jam@maltonschool.org	Maths / Business / Computing / IT
Mrs Eldrett	pmw@maltonschool.org	Science / Health & Social Care
Mr Wilson	prw@maltonschool.org	Geography / History / RE / Citizenship / Sociology / Psychology
Miss Harmon	jxh@maltonschool.org	Art / Drama / Music / PE / DT/ FT / Photography

Several of you have been in contact with the school to request parental access to Showbie for some classes where it has not yet been established. We are supportive of this and will seek to do what we can as we can, but I do want to make you aware of the following message from Showbie:

Restrictions on Parental Access to Showbie.

Over the coming weeks parental access to Showbie will be restricted and limited by Showbie as we prioritise access for teachers and students. This means we are unable to offer any parental access codes to parents and carers at this point.

If you wish to monitor what work is being set for your son or daughter and support their completion of these tasks we would recommend you allocate some time to sit with them and review the assignments that have been created in the Showbie subject folders via the Showbie App on their iPad or through the web based portal www.showbie.com from any web enabled browser. Students will be able to interact with the class teachers and other students (where appropriate) through the Class Discussions tab for any further information on a task.

The timetable for the coming weeks of home study will be as follows:

8.40am	Get ready to start
8.45am	Period 1
10.00am	Break
10.10am	Period 2
11.25am	Break
11.40am	Period 3
12.55pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Period 4
3.15pm	Finish

Please note that there will be no Form Time or Assembly at 1.45pm, so lunchtime is extended. Also, there will be no Personal Development Activity session on a Thursday afternoon, so every day will finish at 3.15pm.

In addition to the normal curriculum, the school is concerned that students won't have access to the range of inspirational activities that take place during term time when the school is open. In an attempt to provide some additional challenge and inspiration over the coming weeks and months we will establish a weekly competition. Students in any year group can enter, and they can enter all the competitions or only the ones that they are really most interested in. This is entirely over and

above their subject based work. There will be a £50 prize (in the form of an Amazon voucher) for the winning entry, which will be publicised via the website and our social media presence in the next week along with a selection of the other entries. I am asking colleagues across all subject and PDA areas to consider possible challenges for us to set so that they cover a good range, but as examples they will include things like: Best Poem; Best original composition on Garageband; Best Drawing; Best self-help article for home-based activities; Best Book review. I am open to good suggestions and I hope this will generate some enthusiasm and interest over the weeks ahead.

The school is also looking to provide a weekly message or podcast related to wellbeing. More information on this will follow.

The Navy Blazer, student newspaper group, will run with students being able to send in articles to Mrs Burrows (jbb@maltonschool.org) for publication on our website.

I will produce a weekly update message for parents and students (more frequently where necessary depending on unfolding events).

Finally, I am conscious that our current students in Year 11 and Year 13 have had the normal sequence of “rites of passage” events, to close this stage of their education and time at Malton School, effectively stolen away from them as a consequence of the actions necessitated by the response to this crisis. I deeply regret that this has had to happen and my thoughts and best wishes are with every one of them. We will try to mitigate this to some extent by holding brief final assemblies with the two year groups tomorrow, Year 11 at 1.45pm and Year 13 at 2.45pm. At the moment it is questionable whether either of the Proms will be able to take place. Even if they can't occur as normal at the end of June, we will consider if there is a possibility and a demand for them to happen – perhaps early in September if the situation has improved. We can't promise but be assured that we will do whatever we reasonably can.

I hope this information is helpful. The school is committed to doing everything it can to support your child/ren over the weeks and months ahead. We can do this best together, through close, regular supportive communication and the provision of challenge, inspiration and encouragement. As I have been saying at the end of all my assemblies this week, after any bad day or bad time there will be good days to follow. Optimism for the future is important for our teenagers. We can best provide that together. And I have no doubt that this generation will reward us richly in return in the years to come.

With best wishes to you and your family.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. S. Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Williams

Headteacher