



BYRCHALL HIGH SCHOOL

LIVE TO LEARN LEARN TO LIVE

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Re: School Closure until further notice

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware the government decision to close all school to the vast majority of pupils comes into force after today. Detailed guidance keeps changing on a day- to-day basis and links to the relevant documents are provided below:

Closure of educational settings: information for pastoral carers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Guidance for schools, colleges and local authorities on maintaining educational provision:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

COVID-19: Free School meals guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

These documents can also be accessed via the schools' website and Edulink.

Can I draw your attention to the first major principle of the closure guidance:

“If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be”

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the request about your intentions if you are a “key worker”. Those of you in that category who have indicated that you have an intention to send your child to school, will be contacted to establish further details so that we can liaise with you over provision. Please contact us if there is a change in your circumstances by using the email address closure@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk

We are keen that children feel that they are being looked after both physically and emotionally and will make every effort to do that. Please be aware that we will be operating more overt social distancing procedures within our setting from Monday.

We are currently still making plans for those entitled to Free School Meals Provision whether they are attending school or not. A voucher system seems the most likely outcome at present. Plans will be implemented as soon as possible. In the meantime, please contact us if the time delay is causing a significant issue.

If you are a parent/carer of a vulnerable child (including children with EHCPs) you should already have been contacted. If this is not the case, or circumstances have changed, please contact us.

All students are being sent home with work packs this afternoon. Materials are also being ‘posted’ on our virtual platforms (the VLE and Edulink) and will continue to be. If your child is in Year 11 we will contact you again in relation to GCSE’s when information becomes available.

As a school we will continue to work hard to provide the best support we can, both educationally and pastorally within the restrictions and capacity available to us. I would like to thank you all both for your support and for the many messages of appreciation that we have received.

I wish you well and am sure we are all looking forward to a return to normality as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. R. Birchall".

AR Birchall
Headteacher