



19 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

## School Closure Update 19.03.2020

Following the correspondence that you will have received from the CEO of the Wensum Trust earlier today, we are writing to inform you of our plans for the immediate future. Set out below is an update on each of the key areas:

### Partial Closure – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

The school will remain partially closed for Year 10, 11 and 13 due to ongoing staff shortages. ***The school will be open for Year 7, 8, 9 and 12*** who will be in their normal timetabled lessons.

Year 10 students can access their classwork through Class Charts as outlined in the School Principal letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> March.

### Examination Update

The Secretary for State for Education announced yesterday in the House of Commons that all GCE / GCSE exams will be cancelled this year. This cancellation we appreciate will have come as a shock to us all, particularly given all the hard work that students have invested towards their final exams.

We took the opportunity this morning, to speak to both year groups affected, to provide them with the current information we had to date. This included the confirmation from Ofqual, who will now liaise with the Department for Education to work through the detail of this decision. At the heart of this, will be the necessity to ensure that all students receive the credit they deserve for all their hard work.

We really do feel for the students at this difficult time particularly, as the decision is totally out of their hands. However, it does truly reflect the unprecedented situation the nation currently finds itself in. Over the next few days, we are seeking ways to ensure that students can be fully prepared for their next steps. Once we have further information we will of course share this with both students and parents.

## Full School Closure – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March until further notice

### 'Key Worker' / 'Vulnerable' Students

Whilst we have been waiting for the government to define the 'Key Worker' role and 'vulnerable pupils', we have moved forward with our interim plans.

For those students eligible (that is children of key workers and those identified as 'vulnerable') to be in school from Monday, all Wensum Trust schools will be open. We feel it is only right that we maintain some stability for all our students, staff, parents and carers whilst following government directive to limit social interactions.

For now our plan is to keep all schools open to those eligible up until Easter. However, this is subject to possible change should we not be able to staff all schools or indeed the uptake from eligible pupils is not sufficient to keep all schools open. We are in very quick changing times. Next week, we will update all parents of our plans for the Easter break onwards.

In the meantime, in order to help us plan our provision please complete this [form](#).



# Hellesdon High School & Sixth Form Centre

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## Free school Meals

Our kitchens will be open for those who are eligible for Free School Meals. Information will be sent from your school tomorrow.

This is a fluid situation and as we get more news, this will be shared with you through regular updates and on our website.

Thank you for your patience and support in what is a very difficult time for us all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rolfe

Mr Earl