

20th March 2020

The
COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
Leftwich



Dear Parent / Carer

As announced earlier in the week, at the end of today the school will close for the vast majority of students until further notice. As I am sure you are aware, over the coming weeks we are being asked to remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, who cannot stay at home safely, where we can. Government advice stresses that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents/carers to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open **only for those children who absolutely need to attend**. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

To help with our planning, please email admin@leftwichhigh.com, if they/you fulfil the following criteria **and you need** to send your child to school:

- you are a critical worker (as per the definition in the link below)
- they are a vulnerable child (supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans).

For these students, we will be open from 08:00-16:30. Activities will be provided from 08:45-15:20 with appropriate breaks. We will be unable to offer a formal education provision, however, we will ensure appropriate supervision and provide a menu of activities throughout the day.

I would like to reiterate that wherever possible (whether a child of a critical worker or a vulnerable child) if it is safe to do so, **children should stay at home**.

The following link clarifies what is meant by a critical worker.



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Principal Mr M Snelson BSc (Hons), PGCE, MSc

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

For students currently in receipt of Free School Meals, the Canteen will open from 12:35-13:15, to receive a meal. There will be a reduced selection of hot meals and/or a takeout sandwich and snack. Details about a national Free School Meal voucher scheme will be shared once we have them.

Please be aware, the school can issue vouchers for a local food bank. Should you require them please email admin@leftwichhigh.com or phone and leave a message for Mrs du Plessis.

I appreciate what a worrying and uncertain time this is for us all. We as a school will play our part in supporting the students who need it and helping in the fight against the coronavirus.

Look after you friends, your family, yourselves and each other.

Mr Snelson,

Principal