



Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA



Dear Parent/Carer,



Good Evening. I want to start by letting you know how amazing the school community was today in very difficult times.



I know there is much debate about whether shutting schools is the right thing to do but I want you to be clear that, as a local authority school, this is not my decision to make. My job, with my team, is currently to risk assess the situation on a daily basis and ensure the school is safe to operate with the number of staff in etc. I do understand that this is frustrating for some of you and creates some very difficult choices and hopefully we will get some further guidance on the longer term situation soon.



We will now have to add another year group (Year 9) to the closure tomorrow **so school will only be open for Year 7, 10, 11 and 13 and the Year 12 construction class**. My apologies to Year 9 who have missed two days of school so far and we will review this on a daily basis. We will also make some changes to lessons tomorrow to prioritise subject specialists with classes and minimise movement around the school. **Year 7 pupils should bring their PE kits**. Pupils at home should ensure they are keeping well and healthy, including getting fresh air, but not be out in the local area unsupervised. They should be completing the work available on Show My Homework or Google Classroom.



We will also be directing pupils to wash their hands more frequently by taking classes down to the toilets at intervals during the day to ensure the best hygiene possible. We are in daily dialogue with Kier, the company that manage the main building, to ensure that cleaning is of the highest standard.



Again, please contact me if your child cannot stay at home and I am happy for the children of public service workers to come to school to support these key services - please let me know if this is the case. Please also contact me if you are worried about your child having meals at home and we can try and find a solution to support.



I am still unable to offer advice about whether your child should come to school and again urge that you read the national guidance and make sensible informed decisions, ensuring you inform us if you have a suspected or confirmed case in your household; please contact me directly if the latter is the case. Absence for self-isolation will not be counted against your child but please ensure you communicate with us in the normal way. If your child is has a medical condition, please again



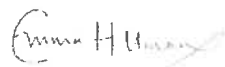
follow the national guidance. The information on relevant organisations is very helpful such as Asthma UK - <https://www.asthma.org.uk/>. I appreciate this is very worrying and please make sure you consider all the risks.

I am aware that pupils in Year 11 and 13 and staff are very anxious about public exams and at this stage, we cannot provide much reassurance, other than to say we are all in the same boat and there will be concessions and adaptations made. In the meantime, please ensure all pupils continue to work in a focused way and that you are discussing how work can continue if schools are to close. We are organising ICT access for the small number of pupils without this.

I am attaching a link to the councils' web page which has further information and includes advice about hardship
- https://walthamforest.gov.uk/content/coronavirus-latest-information?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Stay safe!

All the best

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma Hillman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Emma Hillman