



Friday, 20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update – 20/03/2020

I hope you, your child/ren and your family are well.

This will be the final day of school for our Year 13 students and a few Year 11 pupils who are not returning to Sixth Form.

As you know we close today, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice. This was not the planned “send off” for your child, and we were not expecting the cancellation of the summer examinations. The vast majority of pupils, students and staff have been working exceptionally hard in preparation for this summer’s examinations and they will feel let down. Your child may be feeling anxious or a bit lost. They will be concerned what and how they will be graded.

We wish to assure you that pupils will not be negatively affected and we will do everything in our power to ensure that your child receives the grade they deserve, to enable them to move on to the next stage of their education and/or career.

We have been inundated with questions regarding a whole host of other topics, which I would like to offer clarity where I can:

Log in details and remote learning

If your child is experiencing log in difficulties, please email: [it@chepstow.school](mailto:it@chepstow.school)

If you cannot access learning materials, please message your teachers via Microsoft Teams.

Home Learning Guidance will be published on Monday, which will be shared via ParentMail and Microsoft Teams.

During these uncertain times, the emphasis is on our learners to take responsibility for their own learning and to use the framework provided by the school to further their knowledge and skills.



Please be mindful that this is a new way to deliver for the majority of our staff, and they are learning as well.

#### Wellbeing

The wellbeing of you and your family is paramount and we hope that you are not affected by the uncertainty that surrounds our country, your community and family. Colleagues are working hard to support the development of local, community based neighbourhood support groups, which will be useful to help people get through the impact of the coming months. These are NOT run and controlled by MCC, but wholly locally run and operated. The link below will take you to a support page with information on how to access local services.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/543155922970484/>

#### Grant Funding

The EMA grant funding payments received by a number of our eligible Sixth Form students will hopefully continue. If there are any issues, please contact Karen Oliver who will keep us updated. You can contact via email - Karen Oliver, Finance Officer:  
[karenoliver@chepstowschool.net](mailto:karenoliver@chepstowschool.net)

#### Use of school buildings

You may have read that schools will be used for children who have parents classed under the "Key Workers" list published by the government. At this time Chepstow School is not a designated centre. The current strategy to deliver to children of Key Workers is being devised by the Local Authority and has been communicated via ParentMail this afternoon. More details will follow, as and when we receive them.

#### Parents eligible for Free School Meals

As per the recent communications from our Chief Officer, Secondary aged pupils who are eligible for free school meals and are not in one of the hub schools, should collect their lunch from their normal school at the normal time.

Therefore the plan is to offer a hot meal or a packed lunch on a 'grab and go' basis for our eFSM families from next week, until further notice. These can be collected from the canteen in Chepstow School between 10am and 2pm.

#### Sixth Form Enrolment

Applications for enrolment are available via the school webpage and can be submitted from now until Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020. If you have any queries, please contact Emma Mellen via email: [emmamellen@chepstowschool.net](mailto:emmamellen@chepstowschool.net)

Finally, this is not a time where teachers and staff at the school are "off work". We will be attending to our roles whilst ensuring we do not contravene the advice or orders from the government around social distancing, and supporting the strategy to overcome the virus.



Staff at the school may be redeployed at any time to support the Local Authority, which has been clearly articulated by the Chief Executive.

Staff are still available for any queries or concerns and are contactable via Microsoft Teams.

With best wishes

Matthew Sims  
Headteacher