

19th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

In line with the announcement from the government yesterday, all CST schools will close to the majority of students from this week until further notice. Headteachers will be in touch with you to make arrangements to offer continuation of care to those students identified as a priority including the children of key workers and vulnerable students. A full list will be issued by your school as soon as it is made available by the Department for Education but please do let them know if you are likely to fall into any of these categories. For now, we are operating on the basis that your child's school will be open on Monday for these published groups only. Arrangements will continue to evolve and we may need to coordinate provision with other CST schools or be part of a city-wide approach depending on staffing availability. Schools will keep you updated on this.

These are challenging times but please be reassured that we are a family of schools and will continue to work closely, share experiences and make sure that we stand together to support our children and their families. Our priorities as a trust at this time are to ensure that all students are supported with their learning as far as possible and we continue to keep people safe and support each other at this difficult time. Schools have been working hard to put in place plans for remote learning and please do follow the guidance that is shared with you. Hopefully it will help students to experience learning in new ways and different environments and also create a daily rhythm for their lives in the coming weeks.

Your child's school will continue to send regular communications out to parents and carers via the relevant platforms and do keep in touch with them. We are also looking for ways we can maintain and build our community of schools through online platforms and how we can celebrate the positive moments. We would welcome any thoughts or suggestions for this.

On behalf of all of CST I would like to say two big 'thank yous'. Firstly to the staff of CST who have been amazing in the last couple of weeks and maintained a steady sense of calm and purpose throughout. And finally, on behalf of the staff and Trustees, I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding at this time.

Stay well, and best wishes to you and all those you care for.



Neil Blundell
Executive Principal
Cathedral Schools Trust