



Rayner Stephens

H I G H S C H O O L

Coronavirus COVID-19 – Information (Week Beginning 23 March 2020)

Partial School Closure

From Monday 23rd March 2020 the school is closed to the majority of the learners. The school is only open to your child if you have been contacted by school in writing to inform you. School is only currently open to those learners with an allocated Social Worker, are in the care of the Local Authority, have an EHCP or is the child of a key worker.

Are you a Key Worker?

Schools are remaining partially open to support Key Workers going to work.

The government defined what job roles are considered key workers. These include those working in:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communications and financial services.

You can find the full details here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The government's guidance on school's remaining open for the children of key Workers is very clear:

“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 to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked **schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

Achievement **S**uccess **P**rofessionalism **I**ntegrity **R**espect **E**ndeavour

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...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."

We cannot stress enough the importance that if your profession meets the key worker definition and your partner can care for your child then **your child should stay at home**. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should stay at home.

If you are a key worker and require your child to be in school please contact Dr Potter (m.potter@rshs.aspireplus.org.uk).

Symptoms?

If your child or anyone in your household has a **high temperature** (37.8 degrees or above) or a **new continuous cough** you should **self-isolate** for 14 days.

Students should not worry as it appears that the young are the least vulnerable age group. It is important though for them to take precautions so that they do not pass infection to people who may be more affected.

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

Where can I find more information about Coronavirus?

From the following websites:

Government's Coronavirus website: [click here](#)

Department for Education's Coronavirus website: [click here](#)

NHS Coronavirus website: [click here](#)

Have any staff or students in the school tested positively for the Coronavirus?

No

Learners entitled to a Free School Meal

Learners who are eligible for a Free School Meal can collect a grab bag (sandwich, drink, snack) from the main school reception between 12:15 and 12:30 pm during the partial school closure.

Work to complete whilst in isolation

During the partial school closure, school have made resources available to all learners online. Learners in Year 11 have been provided with a pack of work to complete.

Below is a hyperlink to the school website pages that detail work that learners can complete during the closure. This will be updated regularly.

<https://www.raynerstephens.org.uk/Home-Learning-Resources>

Learners can access their school email and staff are contactable, via email, during the normal school day, for support.

What about the GCSE and A level examinations?

In addition the government has also announced that the summer examinations for the class of 2020 will no longer take place. The government has only made it clear that the GCSE's will not take place in May and June. They have not yet shared the next steps. We understand how upsetting this will be for our students and I can reassure you and them that we will be working extremely hard with Ofqual to secure a fair outcome that reflects our Year 11's efforts. As soon as we are provided with further guidance regarding qualifications we will contact parents via letter and text message.

My child is in Years 10 or 11 and they need careers advice. What support is available?

Positive Steps will be working hard to engage with young people and parents to continue to offer support career information and guidance. This includes:

- Telephone and video conferencing where possible
- Development of information videos for young people highlighting help and support available to young people
- A duty system each day where advice and guidance can be accessed
- Support for young people and families who need advice regarding progression to Education, employment and training

Please contact Caroline Batty, the school's Positive Steps Careers Adviser, on carolinebatty@positive-steps.org.uk or Tameside Positive Steps on 0800 484 0407 or 0161 621 9292 in the first instance. Caroline will endeavour to support, with the priority given to learners in Years 10 and 11.

What can I do?

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes.

How will parents be informed of any changes?

We will inform parents via text, email and the school website if there are any changes we are advised to make. Please ensure that the school has the most up to date contact details so that we can provide essential information quickly and accurately. If you need to update your contact information, please contact the school office.

Who should I contact if I have any questions about this guidance?

Please contact Dr Michael Potter (Education Welfare Manager) if you have any questions or queries about this information.