



# The Rochester Grammar School

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know at the end of today we will be closed for the vast majority of our students until the government decides that schools should reopen. The government has published a useful FAQ document to support parents during this time:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

I would like to thank you for your support and understanding over the last few weeks as we have responded to the emerging Coronavirus situation. I know that for many parents the closure of our school will be a blow and will add to the challenges we are facing. However, we will continue to support you as much as we can in the coming weeks to ensure that your child's education does not suffer even if they will not be able to attend school.

During the last few weeks, we have been preparing for the school's possible closure and I would like to outline how we plan to support you and your child during this period of school closure and if they are not in school.

During the last week of partial closures, work has been set on Edmodo for those year groups not in school. Students should continue with this work and any set in school this week.

Staff are putting together a distance learning package which will comprise of live lessons, interactive podcasts, online quizzes, additional reading as well as work set on Edmodo. We aim to email all students with "how to" guides for all digital learning tools and further information about our live learning programme next week.

Staff will be assessing students' work and providing feedback on the learning that is taking place at home. We will also be sending links to wellbeing activities including exercise that can be done in the home and extra-curricular opportunities.

Over the course of the last week we have reset school email passwords and provided your child with their new password. Any child not in school will receive their new details in the post. If you have not received this by the middle of next week then please contact the school office and we can arrange a new password for your child.

In addition, this is clearly a national effort and we understand that the BBC will be looking to support parents by providing additional educational content:



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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/bbc-keeping-nation-informed-educated-entertained>.

We suggest that parents agree a schedule or timetable for the day with their child that will incorporate some school work but also other activities to give students a structure for their day and the security of knowing what you expect of them during this time. It is important to remember that we do not know how long schools will be closed for and it is important that children establish a purposeful routine from the outset.

The government has also been clear about the need for us all to maintain social distancing to reduce the transmission of Coronavirus. This will be important whilst the schools are closed because young people will naturally want to interact. In summary we need to remind our children that they should:

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough
- Avoid non-essential use of public transport.
- Avoid large gatherings and gatherings in smaller public spaces.
- Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media

Full guidance on social distancing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff who have worked incredibly hard to maintain the best possible provision for students in very challenging circumstances over the last few weeks. I know how committed each and every one of them is to doing their very best to ensure that all our students are able to access the best possible support and learning materials in the coming weeks. Staff will continue to endeavour to do all they can to support your child's education. Thank you for your understanding and support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs C Brinklow**  
**Head of School**