



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, we are all facing extraordinary challenges at this time and the situation is placing pressure on all parts of society. Our staff have been doing all they can to keep our school open, or partially open, since this crisis began and I would like to pay tribute to their remarkable commitment. They have been extraordinary, and we will continue to play our part over the coming weeks.

As you may be aware, the Government made several very important decisions yesterday evening (18th March) about schools. There will be further detail to follow but I wanted to ensure you had as much information as possible as early as possible.

The first is that it has advised schools in England to close, except for certain groups of children, from this Friday afternoon (20th March) onwards as a further measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. No date has been set for when schools will re-open for all students.

From Monday, the school will continue to be open for the following groups of students:

Children whose parents are frontline workers – the Government has said these would include NHS staff, police and supermarket delivery drivers. However, others will be in this category and we expect to hear more from the Government on this in the coming days.

Those classed as what the Secretary of State described as “vulnerable children”. These could be those who have a social worker and those with EHCPs.

If you fall into a key worker category, then please contact [swatson@ormistonden.es.co.uk](mailto:swatson@ormistonden.es.co.uk)

For students in these groups, we have also been asked to remain open through the Easter holidays and we will do our best to achieve this, however this may not be possible. From Monday 23rd March and through this period, our school will provide care for these children between the hours of 8.45am and 3.10pm. The students will only be able to access the school site via the front entrance. Students will be expected to wear normal school uniform.

As soon as I have more information on the above groups, I will share it with you and will then ask for parents/carers who fall within this remit and are accepting this provision to contact the school.

Children who do not fall into the groups listed above should remain at home with appropriate care.

Regrettably, we will not be able to provide food for the students when in school at this moment in time. However, we are working hard to rectify this. We understand arrangements are being made to provide schools with vouchers, for all free school meal students, but we have not yet received confirmation of how this will be achieved. Any student attending the academy should therefore bring a packed lunch with them.



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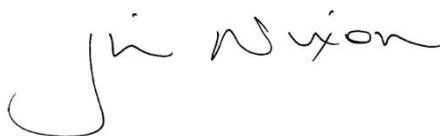
As stated in our text message home earlier today, school continues as normal until 3.10pm on Friday 20th March 2020.

The second key announcement is that tests and exams will not take place this summer. For children and young people, who have worked so hard to prepare for their SATs, GCSEs or A levels, this may be upsetting, and we sympathise with them. At the same time, we understand the decision the Government has made, and we are reassured that children's grades in GCSEs and A levels will be awarded on the basis of moderated assessment, in conjunction with the exam boards and Ofqual. This means that the hard work students have done will be rewarded. It may not feel quite the same, and nor is it, but they will receive grades that will progress them to the next stage of their lives.

Work for students is being set via Google Classrooms. Students should check their school email address for access to this work.

In the meantime, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Nixon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jim Nixon  
Principal