



# KING EDWARD VI GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HOLISTIC, ACADEMIC, EDUCATION

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Following the Government's advice to close schools I can confirm that King Edward's will be closing at the end of today.

As you know we have struggled to remain open fully this week as increasing numbers of teaching staff and their families have been required to self-isolate under the 14 day rule: *in almost all of these cases this has been because of young children being sent home from primary schools with symptoms*. This pattern has continued today and we are now down to a skeleton staff: we are also finding it impossible to get supply staff as many of them are retired and in risk groups or are also self-isolating. I am sorry that we have not been able to continue through until the end of Friday - that had been my goal at the beginning of this week.

I have spoken today with Year 11 and Year 13 to reassure them about a number of things.

Firstly to express my gratitude for all that they have given to the life of the school in whatever way that may be. Schools are here to serve the needs of students and it is a credit to our students that as they enter the senior school they in turn join in this ethos and give ample amounts back to the school community themselves. Secondly I have tried to reassure both year groups that exam boards will inform schools on how grades are to be decided and that we as a school will be supportive and fair in the work we do to ensure no one is disadvantaged. Thirdly, we have also discussed details relating to end of year celebrations and the importance for the school community in celebrating their achievements. We have therefore asked that the Prom Committees in both year groups work with us to coordinate a future date for their Prom and for a celebration day once school reassumes. Finally I have reassured them all that today is not their last day in school as we will need to see both year groups again for these celebrations but also for other more mundane and practical reasons - book return; deciding A level choices and help with University offers etc. etc.

We now have a significant job to do as a school to understand the Government's plans for schools during this period. I will spare you the 4am questions I was asking myself this morning as I work towards finding the answers out through the course of Friday and the early part of next week. Once we have formulated a new plan I will of course be back in touch. That plan will aim to look at the following areas:

1. Year 7-9 educational provision: unlikely to change from our current plans.
2. Year 10 & Year 12 GCSE and A Level classes and continuing "active" education provision.
3. The Government's plans for childcare provision for vulnerable groups of children and children of key workers: education for these groups will most likely follow points 1 & 2 above.

More to follow once I know more from the Government.... 😊

With kindest regards

p.s. Can I also thank all those who have e mailed, messaged their support or offered help: my apologies that that I have not had the time to reply!

**Headmaster James Lascelles**

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