



Dear all,

Firstly, thank you for all the supportive messages we have received this week, this is a challenging period for all of us, but messages of thanks and appreciation make a real difference to staff who are coming in to school, to work, despite facing all the same concerns many of you are.

This letter is simply to address the most pressing issues we are facing today namely, tomorrow and plans for next week. A lot more information will come out over the next few days in terms of work for students etc. but given the announcement cancelling summer exams, we are reviewing our plans in order to make sure students get the most appropriate work and our resources get to those that need it most.

I would like to reinforce that we have a plentiful supply of sanitary products, so please encourage your daughter to get some from Student Office if you are concerned you may not be able to get some. While we are open, we will continue to provide this while we have stock, but this is clearly easier while students are in school.

Tomorrow (Friday) we anticipate being the same as today, we will be open for all students, but understand now that many will be self-isolating for a variety of reasons.

From next week onwards, we will be open for a selected group of students only. While we will continue to do this because it is right for our community, we feel it is right that we are only open for those children that need us to be, so if your child is in one of the categories below but would be perfectly able to be at home, they should not attend school. For example, a 16 year old child of a health worker in many cases will not need to be in school.

The government guidance suggests that we should be open for 'vulnerable' students, they define this as:
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

We know who these children are in many cases, but if you believe your child is in this category **and** you intend to send them to school. please email info@marshacademy.org.uk giving the name of your child, why you feel they are 'vulnerable' (eg EHCP) and which days of the week you need them to be in school and we will get back to you to confirm details.

The government also suggests we should be open for children of 'Key Workers'. This of course could be interpreted as the majority of our children, and if they all attend school, this defeats the purpose of closing the school. So if you need your child to attend school in order to keep doing your job, firstly – THANK YOU – we need you now and I know how hard it is for us in school and I am sure it is harder for you. Please follow the link and complete the attached survey including evidence (eg a photo taken on your phone of an ID badge) so that we can ascertain numbers and finalise plans.

We will provide a meal free of charge to all students who are in. We will contact all parents/carers of students who will be in to explain the arrangements. Don't presume things will be normal. For example, we do not yet know that buses will be running as normal. One important point, no student needs to attend in school uniform, this is not the time for children to feel uncomfortable or have attention drawn to them on their way to school when their peers are not.

Thank you for your support and we will of course be in touch again over the coming days. Stay safe.

Kindest regards,

Shaun Simmons