



# The Crossley Heath School

Head Teacher: Lynnette Cassidy, MBA

The Crossley Heath School, Savile Park, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 0HG

Tel: 01422 360272 • [e-mail: admin@crossleyheath.org.uk](mailto:admin@crossleyheath.org.uk)

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

I write to confirm that school will close for all students at 3.15 tomorrow, except for provision offered to children of key workers and vulnerable children.

## Vulnerable children

We will directly contact parents of the children concerned about the offer of provision.

## Children of Key workers

The government is yet to confirm the categories of workers who qualify as 'key workers', or whether they will specify, where there are two parents, that both parents must be key workers. In the meantime, we have used our understanding of the likely categories on the linked form below. For the purposes of attendance next week, we will work on the basis that one key worker parent/carer qualifies your child to attend school.

If you are a key worker and intend to send your child to school next week, please advise us as soon as possible and **no later than 12:00 noon tomorrow** (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March) by clicking this link <https://tinyurl.com/qt5r6hg> and completing the online form to register your child's attendance. This will enable us to make staffing and catering arrangements. We will then contact parents directly with information about schooling from Monday. We expect that parents may need to use school provision flexibly over the coming weeks and we will update you on longer-term arrangements in due course. Please note that we may contact your employer for verification of key worker status.

## Preparations for closure

We have held assemblies for students in all year groups today. Students were provided with guidance and instructions for home study. The Student Home Study Guide and our previously distributed Home Study Procedure have been made available on our website. The guidance tells students how to access the work set by their teachers. In addition to being set specific subject work, students are able to access general subject-based learning activities, revision strategies and a 'Help, I'm Stuck!' Guide.

Please note that teachers will set work weekly for students. Students will then work independently of their teachers and they will assess your child's learning **on their return to school** to ensure that every child has made good progress. Year 11 and Year 13 students **only** will be able to contact their teachers by email with questions and queries about their work during the working day (09:00-15:00).

We will award rewards and merits on return to school. Where students are found to not to have attempted work, sanctions will apply.

A guide for parents to help support your child's home learning has been made available on the school's website. We appreciate that your child may be sharing workspace and computer access with other family members. We have advised students to mix their activities over the course of a particular day and over the course of the week so that they have a variety of tasks. This will support their well-being and aid effective learning. It is not necessary for your child to follow the order of their usual timetable as long as they cover the work set for the week.

*An "Outstanding" School – Ofsted*

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If your child is ill during the closure period please inform the school by email [admin@crossleyheath.org.uk](mailto:admin@crossleyheath.org.uk) or leave a message on 01422 360272.

### **Safeguarding**

The safeguarding of our students is of paramount importance. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Chesters by email [l.chesters@crossleyheath.org.uk](mailto:l.chesters@crossleyheath.org.uk) or, for serious or immediate concerns about safety of a student, on 07789 440603. Further information on safeguarding, including how to make a MAST referral, is available on the Safeguarding section of our website, under the Well-being tab.

### **Well-being**

Our pastoral and SEN staff will be proactive in contacting students whom we know may require support. Students can refer well-being issues via our website by using the green 'Are you worried about something' button at the bottom of our homepage.

If parents are worried about the Mental Health or the Well-being of their child, information, resources and services are on our school website.

### **Public Examinations (Y11 and Y13)**

The government announced last night that public examinations will not take place in May / June. The Federation of Examination Boards are working with Ofqual to determine how final GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded. At present there is no further information about this and accordingly we are unable to respond to any queries. Please rest assured that we will update parents and students as soon as more information becomes available. There is a button on the homepage of our website for Y11 and 13 where we will post examination information as we receive it. We are committed to doing everything possible to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged by the current situation.

### **Music Tuition**

We are aware that a number of students currently have instrumental tuition lessons in school. Parents of these students will be contacted under separate cover regarding our plans for the continuation of peripatetic music services.

### **General**

The school will use its website to update parents of any new or changed information, so please check it regularly.

### **The school phone line and email will be available for urgent messages only.**

During closure, the school will operate on the minimum staffing levels needed to ensure the Health and Safety of staff and students, to ensure a positive experience for students who are attending, and for the continuity of essential business. The majority of staff are likely to be working from home, as advised by the government. Many staff have caring responsibilities, may have family members at home and/or be sharing workspace. I am sure you will understand that our capacity will be limited. I therefore ask you to support us by not contacting school or individual staff members unless the matter is urgent.

Following the unprecedented upheaval and uncertainty of the last few days, I have been immensely proud of how our whole school community has responded – with calm resilience and a steadfast determination to overcome the challenges we face. Our students have been magnificent and are a credit to you and the school.

Yours faithfully

Lynnette Cassidy  
**Headteacher**