



19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As promised I am now writing to confirm the provision that Cotham School will be offering from Monday 23 March 2020.

Cotham Students in Years 7-12: Continuation of Learning via Google Classroom

Remote Learning Plans for each of the year groups are being worked on continuously at present by teachers both in school and remotely. Currently we plan to continue this for the duration of our school closure.

Remote Learning Plans will cover a 2 week rolling period and will come into effect from Monday 23 March. These will be made available via the school website shortly. We will text/ write to you as soon as possible with an electronic link to these.

In summary:

- Each subject will create work that students should complete for each of the lessons that students will miss as a result of the school closure;
- Students should follow their usual school timetable and complete the work for each lesson that they miss using the instructions provided;
- In the event that the school is forced to close fully for longer than 2 weeks, a further Remote Learning Plan will be produced;
- Instructions for each lesson and the supporting resources will be posted on Google Classroom for students to access there.

Any questions that students may have about the work set will be sent via Google Classroom or email to enable staff to respond appropriately. Staff will feedback to students individually or collectively where appropriate.

Cotham Students in Years 11 and 13

We will provide additional communication from Mr Reed and Ms Quirke very shortly. Today the Secretary of State wrote briefly to headteachers to say:

“Tomorrow we will provide greater clarity on how students and young people will be awarded the examination results that they deserve”.

We hope to update you further after this has happened.

On-site provision

In line with all schools nationally, from Monday 23 March on-site provision will be limited to a basic level of care for the most vulnerable children and the children of front line workers. We hope to give our students and possibly other young people the best experience possible. We intend to offer them a range of activities as well as on-line learning. This will be for the foreseeable future and will be dependent on the continued availability of staff and suitably qualified adults available for on-site work. We have yet to define the length of the school day that will operate.



In the absence of full clarity on the Government's definition of 'key workers'. We believe that it currently stands at:

- Clinical staff employed by the NHS;
- Teachers, including further education teachers and Early Years/nursery teachers;
- Police officers and community support officers in specified forces;
- Frontline police staff (civilians) may also be eligible in some areas;
- Prison officers and some Prison Service staff in prisons in specified areas;
- Probation officers;
- Local authority (LA) or NHS social workers;
- Uniformed staff, in fire and rescue services;
- Armed forces personnel;
- Highway Agency traffic officer staff;
- LA environmental health officers/practitioners;
- Care workers;
- Food / supermarket delivery drivers and other workers.

Vulnerable children have been defined as:

- Children in Care;
- Students known to social care;
- Students with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP);
- Students whose parents/ carers have sent in a request for an EHCP needs assessment (Bristol additional category).

The above may be subject to change.

If you are a Keyworker

In the absence of full clarity on the Government's definition of a key worker we are trying to establish how many of our parents/ carers work in the occupations listed above.

Please follow the link and complete a short survey to help us establish if you are a key worker <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19zGQP7MHg7On-Cet3RrD0N2qR8e1S8pJkRIguZMdZ5s/edit?ts=5e737f2b>

Once we have established this information we will be in touch with keyworkers as quickly as possible.

Vulnerable Children

We have already identified Cotham students who fall into the Government's/ Bristol's definition of 'vulnerable children'. We will be in touch with you as quickly as possible if you are a parent/ carer of one of these children

Cotham Students entitled to Free School Meals

Unless we advise you otherwise, If your child is eligible for a free school meal, a packed lunch will be available daily at the school for your child to collect and take home.

Students should attend the Student Reception on Cotham Road between **12.00pm and 12.45pm** to collect their lunch if required.



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Headteacher: Ms Jo Butler
t: 0117 919 8000
e: info@cotham.bristol.sch.uk
www.cotham.bristol.sch.uk

Please note that there will be no facilities for students to eat their lunch on site except for students attending school as usual for the full day.

Important: Students coming to collect their lunch **must come with their school lanyard**. They do not need to wear their school uniform.

Supporting Your Child's Mental Health

We are aware that this is a difficult time for families. We would like to sign post you to some support available online.

Mental health is just as important as physical health. Support can be found:

- [Mind](#)
- [BBC](#)

Advice for talking to your child about the Virus [Child mind](#)

Websites where your child can seek support with their mental health are available here:

- [Anna Freud](#)
- [Young Minds](#)
- [BBC](#)
- [Kooth - Online counselling](#)
- [Child line](#)

If You Are Concerned About The Safety or Welfare of a Child During Closure

If you feel that a child is at urgent risk of harm please contact the First Response Team on 0117 903 6444 during office hours, the Emergency Duty Team on 01454 615165 at all other times, or the police on 999 if the child is at immediate risk.

You can report any information to us during closure using the email address safeguarding@cotham.bristol.sch.uk. Our dedicated safeguarding team will continue to monitor this during closure.

Very many thanks again for your kindness in sending messages of support to Cotham staff during what is an exceptionally concerning and uncertain time for you and your families.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Jo Butler
(Headteacher)