

Principal: Richard Spencer



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Dear Parent/Carer

By now, most of you will be aware that all schools in England will be closed after tomorrow (Friday 20th March). This applies fully to Ely College. From Monday, we will be closed as an education provider until further notice.

We have already announced that we are closed to Year 10 on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March. We will also be closed to all Year 11 students tomorrow (Friday 20th March), unless they have outstanding coursework to complete, under which circumstances they will be welcome to attend to work on this.

The government have confirmed that the summer examinations have been cancelled. Students have been assured that they will receive the qualifications they need to progress. The details around the awarding of these qualifications are being determined and will be communicated nationally very soon.

I have just sent you all a letter containing an online survey in relation to the planning of provision for the children of key workers from Monday 23rd March. Thank you in advance for your support in responding to this survey promptly, it will be crucial for ensuring we can offer a safe environment for those who will need to be cared for.

Whilst we were initially planning for remote learning opportunities, it is looking increasingly unlikely that this will be possible to deliver. It will certainly not be realistic for individual teachers to be 'online' offering lessons to their classes at the normal time. This will be for three main reasons. Staff will either be in school providing a safe space for vulnerable students and the children of key workers, at home caring for their own sick family or unwell themselves. This will mean maintaining individual timetables will be impossible. We are, however, working very hard to ensure students will have appropriate work to provide their days with structure and purpose while schools are shut. We will update you with more on this in the coming days.

This is a time of great anxiety for many of our community. We have worked today to provide calm, stability and consistency for the students. They have responded wonderfully. It is a particularly distressing time for Year 11 and Year 13 students and their families. I'd like to thank them in particular for their maturity and conduct in the face of almost intolerable uncertainty.

I will be in contact again tomorrow with any updates, including information on how provision will be made for those students in receipt of Free School Meals during the time the college is closed. Please can I ask for your patience and forbearance as we continue to respond as quickly and clearly as we can to a rapidly changing situation.

Yours faithfully

Richard Spencer
Principal