



24 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Re: Coronavirus update – school closure to most pupils**

I am writing to let you know that the government has asked parents to keep their children at home and from the start of next week the school to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

As advised by the government, from Monday 23 March 2020, we will only be open for the children of key workers (e.g. NHS staff, police, others in frontline services) and children with certain needs (e.g. EHCP) – see the full list at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers#critical-workers>

Children whose parents are key workers are entitled to attend school only if there is not someone to care for the child during the day. This means that if there are two adults in the house and only one is a key worker, that child should not attend school. The reasons for the school closures are to minimise social contact in order to contain the spread of the virus in our communities. Brentside will remain open for students in identified groups, where there are no alternative options for childcare.

In order to quantify the need it would help us if you could let us know if you think you or your child may fall into one of these categories. Please inform us by emailing the school [info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk) or call the school office to inform us of your occupations(s), work contact details and your child's name and tutor group. Please check the guidance to see if you qualify as a key worker before contacting the school.

For those students who qualify for this provision, please arrive at school at 09:00 from Monday 23 March 2020 onwards. The school day will run from 09:00 to 14:40. Lunch will be available to purchase from the school canteen as usual (and will be free for students entitled to a free school meal).

Students do not need to wear school uniform but we request that clothing is appropriate for a school environment.

**All other children will need to stay at home, so we ask that you do not send your child into school from Monday onwards.**

Please note that this is a national closure. We will re-open fully as soon as we can and will let you know when this is by communicating with you via email and our website.

I would also like to remind parents of the following information posted on our website yesterday:

### **Supporting our students' learning**

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we will continue to help your child to learn while they are away from school. Specifically, we will do this by:

- Setting classwork using Showmyhomework (smhw) where work for timetabled lessons will be published on the morning of each day that a lesson would have taken place.
- Providing photocopied packs of work for students who may not have access to the internet.
- Ensuring that teachers are available to answer students' questions regarding work set through the smhw website or our school email system.

Please email [info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk) with the subject heading smhw if your child is having difficulties logging in to smhw as this is their main way of communicating with their teachers.

### **Students entitled to Free School Meals**

The government has announced that there will be support provided for students entitled to free school meals. We will contact you with further details once we have them.

Thank you for your continued support. We will update you with further information as the situation develops.

Yours sincerely,



Arwel Jones