



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

Challenge • Support • Flourish

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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

19th March 2020

Dear All,

As you will be aware the DFE has instructed schools to close and therefore Range High will shut at 3.30pm on Friday 20th March for the vast majority of students. All of us here at school appreciate that this is upsetting as it is worrying and your child will be feeling a range of emotions in relation to this news. I want to try and re-assure you that we will endeavour to continue with key elements of your son/daughter's education in the coming days and weeks. As outlined in previous communications, the teaching staff have been working to create a range of resources to support ongoing learning whilst the school is closed. Mr Dolly will issue some further guidance later today as to how this will work. You will appreciate that this is not an easy task to coordinate and as much as teaching staff will be contactable online, their health and need to possibly self-isolate may well affect their availability. The school will remain open as long as staffing allows this to be possible, so you can contact the main switchboard if you have an urgent query.

I have spoken this morning with our Year 11 and Year 13 students. I am particularly concerned for them and I appreciate a lot of them will be anxious about their exams. What is clear is that they will receive their qualifications as outlined by the government yesterday. What is not clear at this stage is how that will operate. There may be some form of online assessment or shortened version of the exams, we simply do not have the information at the moment. I have therefore advised them to continue to follow the work that will be set by their teachers and not to allow themselves to drift away from an educational routine at this stage. Even if there is absolute certainty that no form of assessment will take place, we would shift our focus to get them thinking about future reading/activity that could support them in the next phase of their lives. I will update you when I have further information. I did also outline some online resources in my last letter that you could encourage any of your children to access if they are over-anxious about this situation.

Key Workers

The government have asked that we provide some service to families who are defined as 'key workers' who may need to send their children to school as well as children who are vulnerable. There is no absolute definition as yet but the DFE have said:

Examples of these workers include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans.

Contd.....

If you fall into any of these categories, we need to gather information relating to your need to take up the offer of this provision. If you feel that you fall into any of these categories, could I ask that you contact the school as a matter of urgency using the following: frontline@range.sefton.sch.uk and by 3.30pm today at the latest. We will then make telephone contact with you to finalise arrangements. In the email, we will require the name of your child/children, the year group they are in and what your line of work is which would qualify you for this provision. We would require some sort of evidence to show that you work in one of these areas. A copy of a NHS name badge for example would be sufficient. School will then offer lessons/activities for these children from 9am until 3.30pm in the normal working week. We will aim to provide this provision for as long as staffing levels here at school allow us to do so. Please also note that the normal school bus service will not operate during the closure period for any students.

There may be some provision available during the Easter holiday but I am currently liaising with other local schools on this possibility. Please be advised that any children attending this provision would still be subject to government guidance on Coronavirus. If they were to display any of the symptoms, we would be isolating them in school and then sending them home as soon as possible.

I will continue to communicate with you via letters on the website and via ParentMail. I wish all of you well at this very difficult time and if there are other things we can do as a school to support our community, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike McGarry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike McGarry

Headteacher