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Date: 18th March 2020

For the attention of all parents

PLC response to UK Government announcement that all schools will close from Friday 20th March 2020.

Dear Parent/Carer/Guardian,

You will no doubt be aware that the UK government has announced today (Wednesday 18th March 2020) that all schools will close from Friday 20th March, in response to the coronavirus / Covid-19 risk reduction strategy. At this stage there is no certainty when schools will reopen. However, the government has also outlined the intention for schools to stay open to support 'key workers' children and the 'most vulnerable'.

Therefore, I am writing to you this evening to confirm that from Monday 23rd March 2020, Pathways Learning Centre we will be closed to most students until further notice.

You will no doubt have many questions and queries that you will want to ask, now and in the coming weeks. For now, I will try to address some of the immediate questions and concerns you might have.

Contact and queries during school closure – If you have any queries or concerns during the school closure window and you need to ask a question, please email the following contact **office@pathwayslearningcentre.org**. The office will not be manned, so phone calls will not be answered, however we will make arrangements to check this email address daily. Please be patient with us in terms of a response time, as we will get back to you asap.

Year 11 exams – The government has made clear today that Year 11 students will not sit examinations during the 2020 summer window. They have also confirmed that students will not be penalised for this and qualifications will be awarded in due course. The details of how this will be achieved have not yet been provided. As soon as we are informed we will of course share that information with you.

Learning from home during school closure – All students have / will be sent login details for either 'Google classroom' and / or 'Seneca', which are the two on-line systems that PLC use for teachers to leave tasks and activities for students to complete at home. Primary students have been sent a separate pack of learning materials and more will follow. We will share further information with you regarding this process asap.

On going support - We are committed to providing outreach services to those families who need additional support and we will continue to review our options to provide on-going support for our families that need it most. We are currently working on a plan to provide these services. Where possible, we will continue to safeguard all our students through the period of school closure, including the older age groups, by making arrangements to make regular contact with them and to ensure they have someone they can contact too. More information will follow.

Students entitled to free school meals – We will do everything we can to ensure students entitled to free school meals will be able to access this provision. The government has also announced a plan for a 'National voucher system' for young people entitled to free school meals. Like you, we do not have any details of what this looks like, or how it might work, but we will work tirelessly over the coming days to resolve this issue, so the most basic needs of our students can be met.

Supervision for the children of key workers – Finally, like many schools we are considering what we can do to be able to offer a 'supervision' role to support the children of 'key workers' that would otherwise not be able to carry out their key role. In particular, we hope that we will be able to assist those families in our community who are working for the NHS, frontline workers in care settings and essential front-line services such as police and indeed other teachers.

We are considering arrangements to provide a skeleton staff to be able to supervise children who are in Year 1 to Year 9 and have parents that fit the 'key worker' role outlined above. However, it is very unlikely that we will be able to provide this support for year 10 and year 11 students, unless they are particularly vulnerable; but we will continue to work with our colleagues in health and social care to address the needs of these students too.

We are not yet sure whether this 'skeleton staff' option is possible, for how long, or even if there is a need for it. Therefore, we really need your help with the following information so we can assess the scale of the need and to plan for it.

Parents - What we need you to do?

If you are a 'key worker', who does not have other means of support for childcare and your child is in Year 1 – Year 9 at PLC, please email us with the following information asap to: **office@pathwayslearningcentre.org**

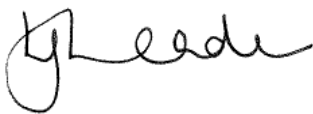
The information required is as follows:

- ***PLC supervision during school closure-*** Please use this title in your email
- *Name of parent*
- *Name of child*
- *Occupation of parent(s)*
- *Reason for requesting supervision. eg. I am a nurse and single parent with no other child care support)*
- *Frequency of request for supervision (eg Mon / Wed 8.30 – 3.00)*
- *Contact number*

As you will be aware, the situation regarding the outbreak of Covid-19 is changing rapidly and the above arrangements could change.

I wish to thank you for your understanding and patience in these unprecedented times and hope that you will appreciate our efforts to assist those most vulnerable and of highest priority.

Yours sincerely



Louise Leader

Headteacher

Relationships

Respect



Empathy

Perseverance