



Headteacher: Mr D. Williams
Burton Wood • Weobley
Hereford • HR4 8ST

Tel: 01544 318159 • Fax: 01544 312900
admin@weobleyhigh.hereford.sch.uk

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Dear parent/carer,

As you may be aware by now, we have been directed to close temporarily at the end of this week due to the Coronavirus pandemic. My understanding is that we will continue to operate in some capacity for certain pupils; I will contact you with further details about which pupils will continue to access school as soon as I receive clear guidance. Similarly we await specific guidance about the GCSE examinations; current guidance is that the exam season will not take place as planned.

Friday will therefore be our last day of 'normal' schooling until we hear otherwise. You will also be aware that we have been preparing for this eventuality and will be asking pupils to use our Remote Access system to continue their learning at home from Monday. Both you and the pupils have recently been provided with information about how this will operate and pupils were asked to log on from home and locate the 'SCHOOL CLOSURE' folder on Monday in readiness. Most communication during the closure period will necessarily take place via email.

During the closure period, staff will be working a normal school day (9am – 3.30pm) from home. They will be preparing online learning for the pupils and will communicate with their teaching groups via email and vice versa. This is clearly a different way of working for staff and pupils alike however I am sure we will all rise to the challenge. It will be vital that you ensure that your child is accessing their learning during the normal school day. It will also be necessary for you to monitor their progress in completing their work on an ongoing basis including checking that they are responding to the emails from staff so you are comfortable that they are doing what is expected. As I say, this will be new to all of us and I ask for your patience as we adjust to this way of working from both a technical and educational perspective. Hopefully this will not be for too long.

These are exceptional and unprecedented times. The children will require as much 'normality' and continuity as possible. Our parents and carers have always been incredibly supportive of the school and I am, once again, grateful for this.

I will continue to stay in touch with you via email with any updates and I thank you for your support and cooperation at this time. Please take care.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams