

Sunday, 06 December 2020

Closure of Heron Hall Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with very great regret that we have had to take the decision this evening to close the school.

Both yesterday and today, we have been notified that additional staff have tested positive for the coronavirus and others have been advised that they need to self-isolate. Unfortunately, this means that with so many of our staff not able to come into the school for health reasons, I have had no choice but to close Heron Hall Academy and move to remote learning for the next two weeks for all the year groups. The school will therefore be closed until we return after the Christmas holiday break.

What students need to do

Students will need to follow their usual school day timetable. Lessons will be uploaded to Google Classroom, where teachers will be live-streaming lessons via Google Meets. Students should log onto Google Classroom for their specific subject at their lesson time. Students should then click on the link for Google Meets. Lessons may be streamed in full or in part to allow for time within the lesson for students to complete work set.

Students are expected, where possible, to have their web cameras on and microphones off, unless advised to do so by the teacher. Students are also expected to behave as if they were in their classroom at Heron Hall. Students may be asked to submit work via Google Classroom for teacher feedback.

Please be aware that some teachers are suffering from the symptoms of Covid-19 and therefore will not be live-streaming lessons as they are too unwell to do so. In some cases, teachers may still be able to upload resources, but some may not. Your understanding and compassion is much appreciated during this time. Please be assured that the school will be monitoring live lessons and work set on Google Classroom to ensure we are providing our students with the best possible learning experience.



Exams

Exams are also cancelled for Years 9 and 10, as well as the remaining exams for Years 11. These will be re-scheduled in the New Year.

Login details

If your child does not know their login/ password details, please contact the school office:
office.heron@chat-edu.org.uk.

General safety advice

COVID-19 Symptoms

If your child is well now, they do not need any specific treatment. However, you should be vigilant for any symptoms of COVID-19 infection and where these are observed seek a test.

The common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough
- loss of sense of taste or smell

If you, or anyone in your family, has these symptoms now or in the future, arrange to have a test as soon as possible, stay at home for 10 days from when your symptoms started, even if you are mildly unwell. All other members of your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. This is to protect others in your community. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. If you or your child become very unwell, then contact NHS 111 for advice.

Testing for people with symptoms is available and more information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Please also see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Precautions

- There are things you can do to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- When you leave your home, always wash your hands when you return
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards



Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. It is vital that we follow all the relevant government guidance and the advice from the local Public Health England Health Protection Team. The school will re-open after the Christmas break.

I will continue to update you as appropriate.



Mr. A. Barzey
Head Teacher
Heron Hall Academy

