

20th March 2020

Dear Families

Summary

This is the first of what may be several messages to you today. I apologise for this, but we are dealing with some fast-moving events and appreciate your cooperation. All students will leave today with a paper letter from me; we will then make sure that this is also sent home via parentmail.

Children of key workers

We are very keen to hear from any parent who feels that they may need access to school for their child during the closure period because they are a keyworker. If both parents are key workers or if a student comes from a single parent family where that parent is a key worker your child will be able to continue attending school.

Here is a summary of the types of work this covers:

- Health and Social Care
- Key Public Services
- Local and National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services
- Education and childcare

Further detail about keyworkers is provided at the end of this document. If you are unsure, we would still prefer to hear from you.

Please note that we will be keeping staffing at our schools to a minimum each day to also minimise the impact we have on other schools who may otherwise need to look after the children of colleagues.

If you think this provision could be of use to you and you have not already done so, please would you email with details of your role, your child's name and year and the best contact details for you to: caststudentservices@cap.education.

This is very new information released overnight. It may not be possible to confirm arrangements today. I may therefore need to be in phone or email contact with parents over the weekend.

Invited students

Further students will be invited to attend school. This may be because they do not have online learning access, they need specialist support, or they have another home circumstance where we feel we can be of help. We will contact you directly.

Free School Meals

Many of you will have heard the Government has announced that they are currently developing a national approach to providing support to families through supermarket and shop vouchers. We are not sure how this national scheme will work in practice, but expect it to be put in place in the next couple of weeks.

In the interim, the school will be ordering a £20 food voucher for every student eligible for free school meals and once received these will be distributed by First Class post to families.

We very much hope to receive these by the middle of next week and will put these in the post by the end of the week. We will keep you informed of when you can expect to receive this.

If you are struggling for whatever reason, I am keen to help you if I can. If I cannot help you directly, I might be able to find someone who can. Please get in touch.

If you have any questions or concerns please let us know.

Danielle Pacey
Interim Headteacher

Further details about key workers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.