

5 January 2021



Saffron Walden County High School

Saffron Academy Trust

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Last night, the Prime Minister announced that schools would now be closed to all but the children of critical workers and vulnerable children until February half-term.

The decision was unexpected, but we have been planning for the unexpected since the March 2020 lockdown and have started to teach all children on Teams from today. Teams is also a system they have continued to access throughout this academic year, so all students are familiar with it. This will continue now until the end of this lockdown.

We want to reassure you that we are going to be there for your child. Please don't worry, we really do understand how difficult this is for our families to cope with, along with the other pressures we all now face during this lockdown.

We will do the following to support your children during this time:

- provide good quality remote lessons that support your child to follow the curriculum and allow them to make strong progress
- mark and assess specified work
- stay in touch with your child via Teams communications
- provide your child with a weekly school assembly
- communicate with you regularly and be here to answer your queries

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Children will be supervised in school and follow the same programme as those at home. If you need to access this provision, please contact the school office and we will try to provide a space for you.

Year 11 and 13

We are very disappointed that, once again, our students face uncertainty. We are awaiting further information and we will communicate with you as soon as we know more.

We know how hard our students have been working and they should be reassured that this work will be recognised. They **must** continue to work hard to complete the planned curriculum so that, whatever happens in the summer, they are best placed to achieve what they are capable of.



We will obviously now **not** be running January mocks in school for Year 11 and we will not be asking students to complete these exams remotely as this is not easy to ensure a consistent process. We also wish to avoid additional stress and anxiety for them. We know how hard students have worked and we know that you at home and staff in school are very proud of them. The revision undertaken will still stand students in good stead for future assessments done in exam conditions in school and, at present, we are still planning to run some mocks in March.

Public Vocational Exams

According to the Department for Education, the January Vocational exams run by the exam boards are expected to take place and students should continue to prepare for them and make plans to attend school for those exams.

We are very grateful for the support that our parents have shown to the school at this extremely difficult time. Together we will get through this and we look forward to a return to in-school education later in the spring.

Very best wishes,

Caroline Derbyshire & **Polly Lankester**
Executive Headteacher **Headteacher**

