

18th March 2020



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Executive Principal: Ms R Hindocha

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: SCHOOL CLOSURE for Years 8, 9 and 10 on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March.
School open for Years 7 and 11 only.**

As you will appreciate, we find ourselves in challenging times. We are following all government guidelines and striving to remain open as required.

However, staff have informed me, in significant numbers, of the need to either self-isolate or follow socially distancing guidelines. Following the government guidance this means staff are going to be unavailable to be physically in the school for a minimum of 14 days. This leaves us no option but to close school on **Thursday and Friday to years 8, 9 and 10**. I am very well aware that closing a school has significant implications for parents/carers as well as students and would hope that you will understand that this has been an unavoidable decision.

Students all had an assembly yesterday and have been informed that they need to complete the work that teachers set. In addition to this, staff are planning for learning resources to be made available to your children via our online platform – **Class Charts**. These will include, but not limited to:

- Links to websites
- Knowledge Organisers
- Links to YouTube lesson videos
- Seneca
- Educate
- MathsWatch
- Exam papers
- PowerPoints with subject content to understand and learn

We are aware not all students have access to an electronic device and therefore staff have been preparing work packs. These have either been given to the students already. If this is not the case, please contact the school and we will arrange for work packs to be sent to you.

We have included a summary of the learning plan with this letter. In the event of a longer closure, additional activities will be made available.



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If your child is entitled to a **free school meal**, they may still collect this from the main reception even if they are required to be at home on Thursday and Friday. Please let us know if you require this service by emailing info@orchard-tmet.uk with '**School Meal**' in the subject line.

We understand that many parents rely on schools to be able to work. Therefore parents who are **essential workers** in for example the health and education sector or other critical service, **will still be able to send their children in on Thursday and Friday** if they are in years 8, 9 and 10. We hope this helps the parents in our community who have a critical role to play in keeping vital services going for all of us.

New information is being released daily. We will continue to take advice and guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education. We will be updating our website and social media sites as and when updates are available. As a reminder, our Facebook handle is @OrchardMeadAcademy and our Twitter handle is @OrchardMead. The Trust's Facebook is @TheMeadEducationalTrust and Twitter is @TMETrust.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Rita Hindocha
Executive Principal