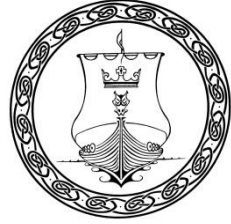


# *Queen Elizabeth II High School*

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HEAD: Ms. S. M. MOORE, B.A., M.B.A.



2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Re: Closure of Schools due to Coronavirus**

We would like to thank you all for your patience at this difficult time.

As I am sure you heard today the Chief Minister ordered the closure of most schools for most pupils on the Isle of Man from the end of school today.

We know that parents/carers will seek to keep their children safe by keeping them at home and will follow the Government's advice. We very much appreciate your support in this and know that, if we all work together, we have the best chance of reducing the spread of Covid-19.

The Government has asked parents to keep their children at home.

Secondary and primary schools have been asked to stay open with a minimum number of staff to look after our most vulnerable children and the children of essential workers. Most school staff will also be working from home. The list of essential workers is attached at the end of this letter.

From Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 only children who are identified as vulnerable or whose parents are in the following groups can attend school. I would like to reiterate that children of essential workers should only attend school if they are unable to be kept safely at home. If this applies to you, please complete the [form](#) on the website so that we can be sure that your child has a dedicated work space in school. Although there will be the opportunity to purchase lunch using a lunch card, there will not be any free lunches this time except for those on free school meals.

### **It is important to understand that:**

- **Schools are open only to vulnerable children and children of essential workers**
- **Parents/carers should do all they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that could spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.**
- **Many parents who are essential workers may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be kept safely at home should be.**
- **The fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational settings the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.**

All students will be following the remote learning provided according to the system we used in January with a tutor session each day at 11am. Information to support you is on the school [website](#). If you need to borrow a device so that your child can access google classroom, please let us know and we will lend you one. All correspondence can be through the usual [qe2enquiries@sch.im](mailto:qe2enquiries@sch.im) or intouch.

We were due to have held the 14-19 options information evening tomorrow. Clearly this will now not be possible. We are planning to upload to the website information for each subject for both GCSE and A level courses by early next week so that you and your children can view the information. Then, if you have further questions, we are happy to answer them. I appreciate this is far from ideal but is the best we can do in the circumstances.

Similarly, we will not be able to hold the Y11 or Y12/13 parents' evenings as planned. Y11 are due to receive a summary report soon. We know that all exams are cancelled except possibly for Cambridge International. Decisions about exams for this are due to be made later this week. Information is being issued by awarding bodies in March as to what kind of assessments we should use instead of exams to determine a Teacher Assessed Grade. It is really important that the students continue to work as any further assessments will take place next term. I will keep you posted as information comes in.

Thank you again for your forbearance and understanding. I do hope that you and your families stay safe. As always, we are here should you need any further help.

Best wishes

Sue Moore

## Essential Workers

<b>Work Sector</b>	<b>If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision</b>
<b>Health and social care</b>	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 Island'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.
<b>Education and childcare</b>	This includes childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.
<b>Key public services</b>	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.
<b>Local and national government</b>	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 arm's length bodies.
<b>Food and other necessary goods</b>	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).
<b>Public safety and national security</b>	This includes police and support staff, contractor and (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), those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff.
<b>Transport</b>	This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.
<b>Utilities, communication and financial services</b>	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 telecommunications sector (including but not limited to network operations, manufacturing and engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	This includes those that are required for essential commercial cleaning staff who are deployed in any of the working areas of the categories listed above in order to allow them to function.
<b>General Guidance</b>	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.