

Wednesday, 18 March, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Closure of Schools in England

As a result of the announcement made by Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, this afternoon, we will be closing all of our schools to all pupils except for those who require care due to parents working in essential roles, or because they are classed as 'vulnerable' by government definition.

Schools were not informed of this announcement ahead of it being made and we require time to implement processes. We understand that the government will issue schools with guidance regarding which job roles are defined as key workers. We will send this information and how we intend to implement our plans to all parents as soon as we have it. Headteachers will be in their schools tomorrow morning to meet with staff, but will attend a Trust planning meeting to set new arrangements for all schools, moving forward.

Parents will be informed on Friday of the arrangements for the foreseeable future. The government have not set a timescale for these new measures but we are committed to keeping you updated. Please inform your school of any recent changes to your mobile telephone number and email address. Regular updates will also be added to your school's website as well as the Equals Trust website. A direct link to the updates can be found at <https://www.equalstrust.org/page/?title=COVID+19+Updates+for+Parents&pid=68>.

Please ensure you reply to all communications from school requiring information as soon as possible. In the meantime, I wish you well, in uncertain times and thank everyone for the messages of support the schools and Trust have received.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Palmer".

Phil Palmer
Chief Executive Officer, Equals Trust