

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to you at the end of a tumultuous and challenging week. This is an important time for the country and our community to pull together and to heed the Government's advice on how to deal with Coronavirus (Covid-19). It is a time of unprecedented challenge for all students, families and staff, and while I wish to reiterate that at the moment there are no confirmed cases of any student or member of staff at the school contracting Covid-19, there will be significant disruption to all our daily lives in the weeks and months ahead. In times of uncertainty, it is vital that we look after each other and our communities.

You will no doubt be aware that the Government has made a number of announcements in relation to measures to prevent the further spread of Coronavirus. These include the closure of all schools and colleges in the country from Friday 20th March 2020 until further notice. We have surveyed our parental community and will support our families and community by remaining open for the children of identified key workers and those children in pre-agreed vulnerable groups. School will be open for these students from 9:00 until 14:45 commencing on Monday 23rd March. Students will receive a streamlined but varied curriculum and will have food provided for them. They should attend in full school uniform as usual.

Many of our families are usually in receipt of free school meals. We have provided packed lunches to those that wanted them until Tuesday 24th March. From Wednesday, we will be providing supermarket vouchers to all those eligible; further details on how these will be distributed will follow soon but we are keen to ensure that this happens with limited social contact.

I know many of you are concerned about the cancellation of GCSE exams and other assessments, and I can assure you that we will do everything we can to make sure that the Government lives up to its promise of a fair grading system that allows student to progress to the next stage of their education. Unfortunately, at the moment, we do not have any details on how this will be achieved, but I will keep you informed of any developments.

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Hartfield Crescent, Acocks Green, B27 7QG | 0121 628 1311 | enquiry@ninestiles.org.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation and to wish you well for the challenging days ahead. I hope you remain in good health and are able to look after those near and dear to you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alex Hughes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alex Hughes

Principal